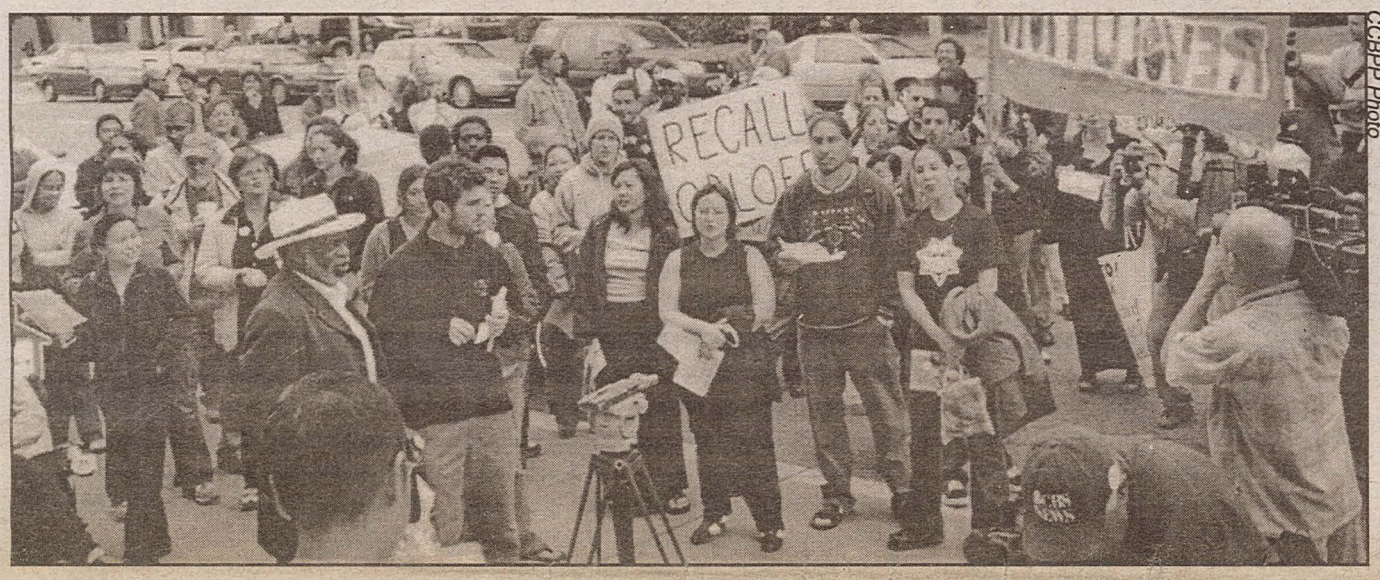
Racial Profiling Alleged at Oakland's Everett & Jones Barbeque (See page 4)

COMMEMORATOR

Published by the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party

Volume 14, Number 1 | Suggested Donation $2.00 | February 2004

Economic Crisis Brings Increased Repression



CCBPP Photo

Crowd at press conference, September 30, 2003, immediately after the hung-jury verdict regarding the infamous "Oakland Riders" case, involving police frame-ups and brutality against mostly West Oakland residents.

By Melvin Dickson

We are now in the age of reactionary intercommunalism, in which a ruling circle, a small group of people, control all other people by using their technology.

At the same time, we say that this technology can solve most of the material contradictions people face, that the material conditions exist that would allow the people of the world to develop a culture that is essentially humane and would nurture those things that would allow the people to resolve contradictions in a way that would not cause the mutual slaughter of all of us. The development of such a culture would be revolutionary intercommunalism.

By Dr. Huey P. Newton, *The Huey P. Newton Reader,* Page 187.

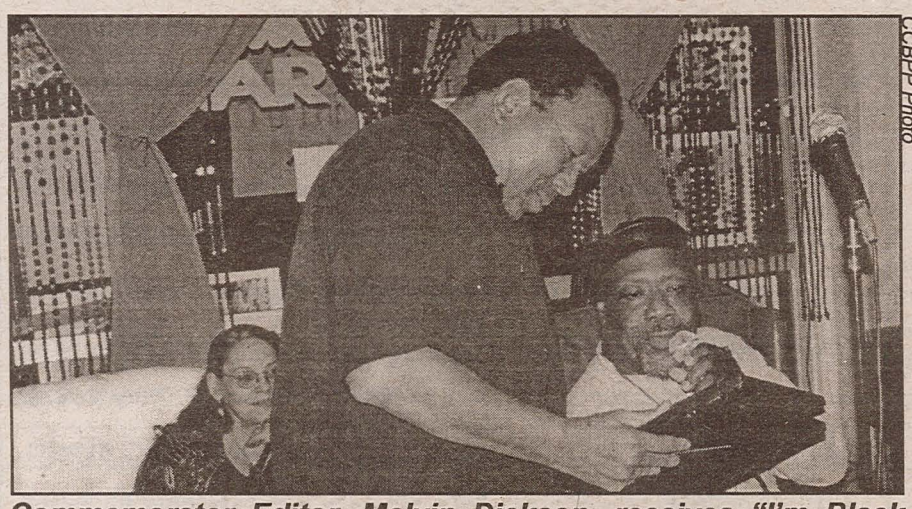
George W. Bush is on the path of becoming the first U.S. president since the Great Depression whose administration has brought about a loss in the absolute number of jobs. Funding for schools has been cut to the point that some low-income, and minority students do not have paper for their homework, while their schools have no toilet tissue in the bathrooms, nor janitors to clean them. At the same time that the government has cut social services, health care and education costs continue to climb beyond the reach of more and more Americans with no rectification in sight.

The ruling class, fearing rebellion or outright revolution, has embarked upon a strategy which places local governments in a position directly antagonistic to the interests and needs of local, especially low-income workers.

As the economy crumbles, the federal government puts us into greater and greater debt in order to bankroll corporate welfare for companies such as Bechtel and Halliburton. All under the guise of "national security," state, county and city governments are now left without the money to provide for their own populations and local governments are reduced to desperate measures. So-called redevelopment and gentrification schemes for inner cities neighborhoods attempt to attract residents and businesses that will bring more money to a local economy while they drive out poor and low-income working people, those who not only cannot afford the high cost of gentrified living but also need more in public services. They simply cannot afford to live in their neighborhoods anymore. They are being pushed out into even worse conditions.

Continued on page 12

CCBPP Commemorates 37 years of Black Panther Struggle



CCBPP Photo

Commemorator Editor, Melvin Dickson, receives "I'm Black and I'm Proud" award from Lee Williams, poet, actor, painter, and writer, at the 37th Anniversary of the Black Panther Party, at Oakland's Jahva House.

By F. Tony Salazar

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) sponsored the 37th Anniversary of the Black Panther Party, on Friday, October 17, 2003, at the Jahva House in Oakland, California. Terry Cotton, a longtime CCBPP board member acted as host and introduced performers and dignitaries at the well-attended event. Cotton joined the BPP in 1968 during

Continued on page 9

Inside This Issue

Editorial: Drug Plan for Seniors . . . . . Page 2
Interview & Update on Mumia Abu-Jamal . . . . . Page 3
Everett & Jones Barbeque . . . . . Page 4
Cuba Has Never Betrayed Its Principles . . . . . Page 5
Huey's Corner: Newton and Cleaver Split . . . . . Page 8

Editorial

"Drug Plan for Seniors" = Drug Plan for Private Gain

More tax-dollar 'privatization' giveaways at the poor's expense

Cartoon by Jonik

By Commemorator staff

As 2003 came to a close, the United States Congress passed (and President George W. Bush signed) Medical Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act, on December 8. This so-called "drug plan for senior citizens" will give control over the Medicare portion of the fund to both multinational pharmaceutical corporations and insurance companies allowing them to make private gain out of hard-earned tax dollars.

Contracting to private insurance corporations will allow these profit-making companies, as administrators of the new Medicare drug program, to siphon profits off the top of the Medicare budget. In some cases, this will literally constitute stealing money from a blind man's cup – all the while doing it in the name of helping poor seniors and disabled meet their staggering prescription drug bills.

The Medicare drug scheme comes on the heels of a decade of the federal government opening up Medicare services to be contracted out to private profit-making businesses. The government already restructured publicly funded and regulated health services —Medicaid and then Medicare — to private, profit-driven health industry corporations such as health maintenance organizations (HMO's). These same companies became notorious over the past several years for dumping coverage for thousands of Medicaid and Medicare patients at a time by abruptly pulling out of contracts for being "unprofitable," regardless of the death, injury and suffering they would cause. Now federal officials are giving these same corporations another bite out of the Medicare budget apple through the new drug plan.

This federal medical act is yet another form of privatization, this time stealing more money from the endangered Medicare fund to feed the drug and insurance industries, turning our tax dollars into mega-gains for a handful of wealthy corporations. This will last only until the money runs out or they can no longer make fantastic profits off of the backs of the elderly and disabled – or until they are no longer permitted to carry out such criminal activity against the people.

All the publicity and hype about this "drug plan for seniors" may have raised the hopes of some but will in reality dash any chances of relief from the stranglehold-costs of medication for the majority of the U.S. population. Rather than expand the availability of medications for low-income people on fixed incomes, it will take monies out of the Medicare budget and channel them into the hands of private corporations.

Provisions of this bill prohibit the federal government from negotiating discounts with the drug companies – another clue that this is not about helping seniors and the disabled meet their skyrocketing pharmaceutical costs for prescription medication.

Under the new plan, private insurance companies will operate the new prescription drug benefit on behalf of the government — similar to insurance policies referred to as "Medigap" for seniors who may have company health plans with drug benefits.

Approximately one-third of the cost of medication will be covered through a complex formula that includes Medicare patients being charged for premiums, deductibles and payments for a gap in coverage for people whose annual cost of medication exceeds $2,250 — that annual

Continued on page 16

Less Profitable Drugs

By Commemorator Staff

The pharmaceutical industry starts and stops production based on whether or not they can make a level of profit acceptable to investors. The critical public health implications of this problem were brought to the fore by the recent flu epidemic this year when the government admitted that it did not have enough flu vaccine to provide adequate protection. According to both hospital-based doctors and pharmacists and the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) draft report, cuts in the production of less profitable drugs is dangerous to the U.S. population, particularly when faced with an epidemic, as we have just seen in the recent influenza season.

Pharmaceutical companies curtailed production of vaccines over the last eight years with disregard to actual medical need. Among the reasons for discontinuing production of a vaccine are that it can't be produced sufficiently cheaply and still be safe, or that it had been patented, but the patent has run out so that the company no longer has a legal monopoly of that vaccine and therefore can't sell it at whatever price it chooses. This has reduced the supply of these important pharmaceuticals to dangerous levels. Giving these companies a major role in the health care of our elderly and disabled likewise has dangerous ramifications to their health and well-being.

During the spring 2001 flooding of the Mississippi River, millions of gallons of raw sewage poured into the river from flooded treatment plants in places like Rock Island and Davenport, Illinois. The tetanus vaccine was in very short supply, due to a decision on the part of American Home Products, a major manufacturer of the vaccine, to discontinue production due to profitability considerations. During previous floods, workers wading chest deep in water contaminated with sewage had been routinely given a tetanus vaccination. On the occasion of the 2001 spring flood, however, due to the shortage created by American Home Products, the vaccine was given only to people with puncture wounds, and the flood control workers were left to rely on the grace and mercy of the Lord for tetanus prevention.

Continued on page 17

Opinions and positions taken in articles with bylines are those of their writer. The views expressed in the bylined editorial and opinion pieces published by The Commemorator *do not necessarily indicate its endorsement or support.* — The Editor

Copyright 2004

COMMEMORATOR

Published by the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party

"SERVING ALL OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES"

Volume 14, Number 1,
January 2004, Oakland, California

Editorial Board

Clifford Cody, Melvin Dickson, Leroy Dupree

EDITOR . . . . . **Melvin Dickson**

MEDICAL EDITOR . . . . . **Tolbert Small, M.D.**

CIRCULATION STAFF . . . **Willie Lee Bell, Bobby Coleman, Terry Cotton, Jonathan Hind, Marlene Krohn, Alex Tinonga, Lee Williams**

PROOFREADERS . . . . . **Benjamin Berman, Jeremy Caughlan, Bobby Coleman, Paul Goettlich, Aairam Thomas, Virna Tolentino**

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS . . . . . **Mumia Abu-Jamal, Melvin Dickson, F. Tony Salazar**

ILLUSTRATORS . . . . . **Jon Jonik, Kiilu Nyasha,**

LAYOUT/DESIGN . . . . . **Gregory Anderson**

PHOTOGRAPHY . . . . . **Charles Aikens, Hans Bennett**

Labor Donated

Opinion

Interview: Mumia

"Both parties really depend on a very thin slice of the US electorate"

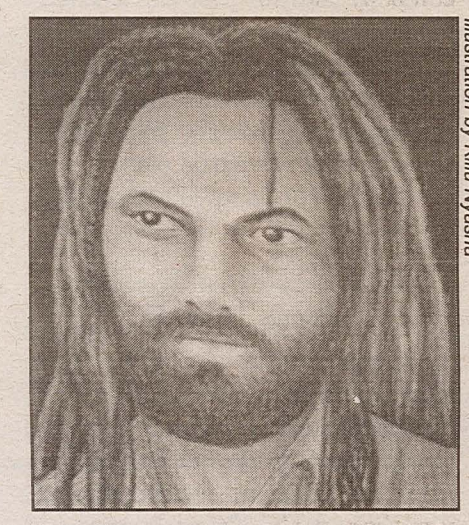


Illustration by Kiilu Nyasha

Interview conducted Aug. 24, 2003

Hans Bennett: The Black Panther Party long held a scathing critique of U.S. foreign policy. How did your experience as a Panther shape your views on global politics?

Mumia Abu-Jamal: At an early stage in its development, the BPP became what was called a "revolutionary internationalist party," which meant that they looked to revolutionary anti-imperialist examples around the world. We looked to places like Cuba and the experience of the revolutionaries there like Che Guevara. Mao was very important. His red book was required reading. Frantz Fanon was also very influential. While Fanon was of West Indian heritage, he became very active in the Algerian Revolution.

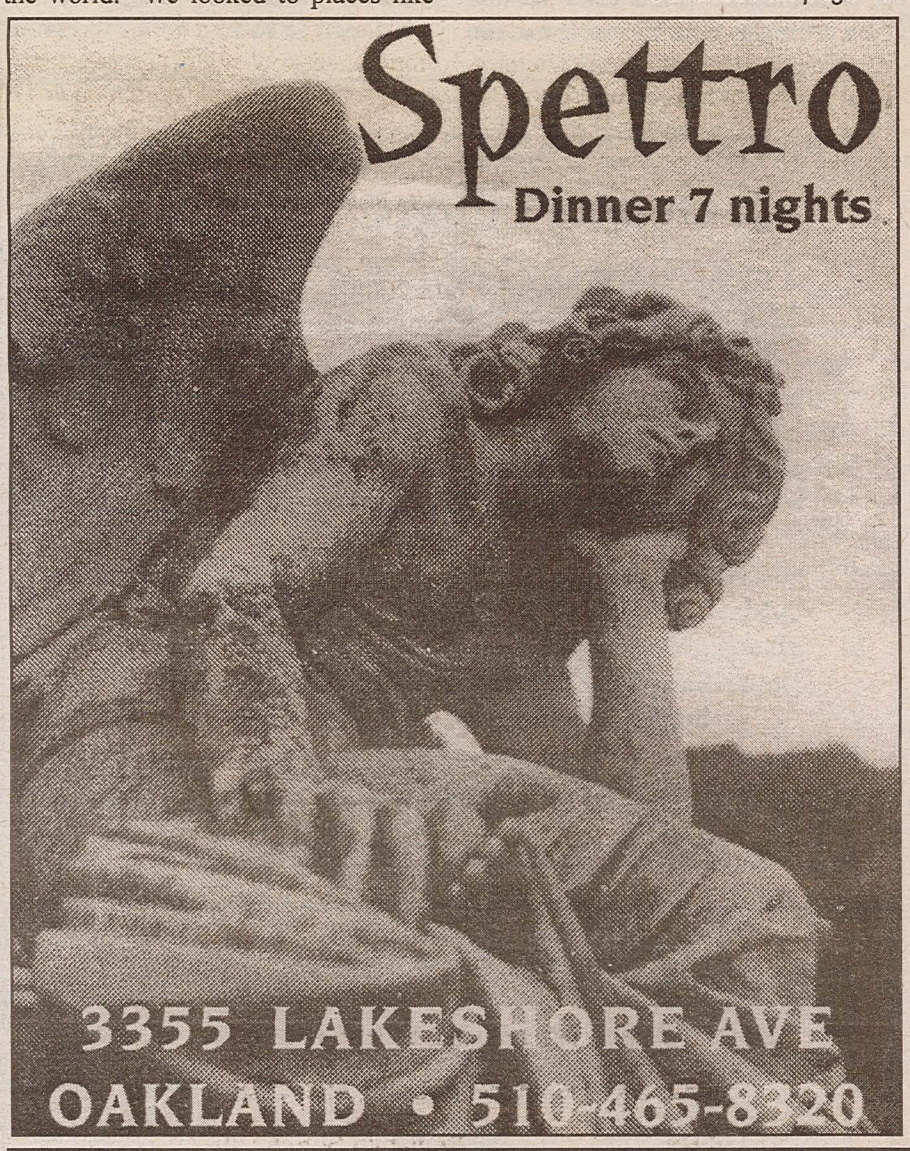
They don't care what the people want. They just care about their corporate sponsors.

Because we considered ourselves internationalists, we began to look at the world from a deeper perspective than most people that considered themselves black nationalists as well as many others on the left at the time.

HB: What did the Panthers believe was the motive for U.S. foreign policy?

MAJ: I remember very early in the party's history, an article in the BPP

Continued on page 15



Pennsylvania Supreme Court Rejects Mumia's Appeal

U.S. Supreme Court to review critical case (Mills) that could execute Mumia

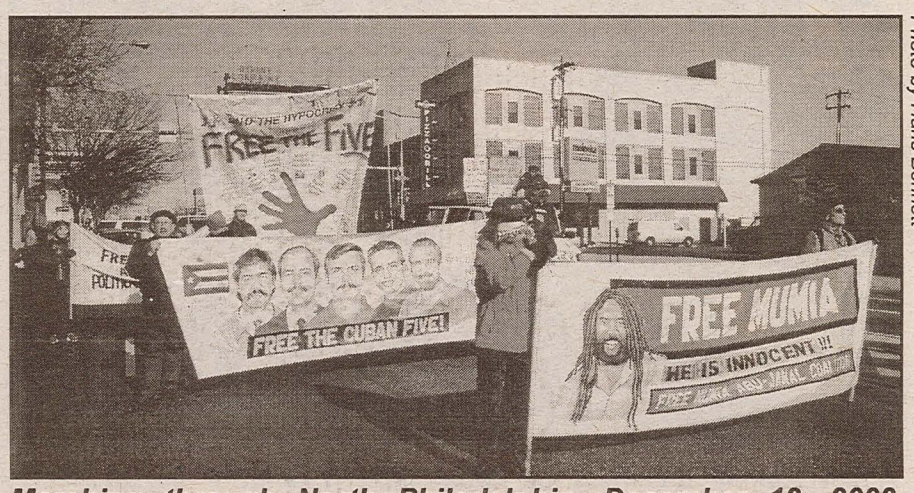


Photo by Hans Bennett

Marching through North Philadelphia, December 13, 2003, Mumia demonstration supports the Cuban Five (Cubans held and persecuted by the United States on trumped-up charges).

By Jeff Mackler and Laura Herrera, Co-coordinators, The Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

Editor's Note: In 1998, organizers from the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party started a petition drive demanding the release of Mumia, and a new trial. At that time, CCBPP organizers met Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal organizers and began correspondence with Jeff Mackler, the West Coast coordinator. The following update gives some detailed information regarding the legal status of the case.

On October 8, 2003, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled against Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeal. Citing the "untimeliness" of the evidence presented relating to Mumia's innocence, the court refused to consider the confession of Arnold Beverly, that he, not Mumia, murdered police officer Daniel Faulkner on December 9, 1981. Mumia, an award-winning investigative journalist, has been on Pennsylvania's death row since 1982 for a crime he did not commit. His struggle for freedom and justice is supported by the European Parliament, Amnesty International, the 1.8 million-member California Labor Federation, the ILWU, Nelson Mandela, Ossie Davis, E.L. Doctorow, Alice Walker, Ed Asner, Jacques Chirac, the San Francisco and Detroit City Councils and by millions of supporters of democratic rights worldwide.

In rejecting the Beverly confession the court referred to the infamous July 19, 2001 memorandum of Federal District Judge, William H. Yohn who ruled that "innocence is no defense." Yohn's decision also cited the need for "finality" as defined by several statutes as well as the reactionary 1996 Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) that was approved by Congress to make state court murder convictions "effective," that is, implemented swiftly with severely limited recourse to federal appeal.

Prior to the AEDPA some 40 percent of state court murder convictions were reversed on appeal. Grounds for reversal ranged from racist prosecution practices, exclusion of Black jurors, the use of falsified evidence, intimidation of witnesses, improper jury instruction and a myriad of other abuses that are commonplace in the U.S. Criminal "Justice" System.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court also dismissed the testimony of Philadelphia court stenographer, Terri Maurer Carter, who overheard Mumia's original trial judge, Albert Sabo, state in his antechamber in relation to Mumia's case, "Yeah, and I'm going to help 'em fry the nigger." The Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision cited this quote from Carter's affidavit and was compelled to agree that this evidence WAS submitted in a timely manner, but it was nevertheless rejected as irrelevant. Said the court: "Even if appellant [Mumia] has raised this exception [referring to the "after-discovered evidence exception" of the law] in a timely manner, he is not entitled to relief, as the issue of judicial bias was previously litigated in appellant's first Post Conviction Relief Act proceeding, and was thoroughly addressed on its merits by this court in the ensuing appeal."

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court therefore ruled that its previous 1998

Continued on page 15

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
COMMEMORATOR
Mail to:
4432 Telegraph Ave., PMB 62, Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 652-7170

Please send me _____ subscriptions:

NAME (Please Print) **PHONE NUMBER**

ADDRESS

CITY **STATE** **ZIP**

❑ 1YR. @ $12 ❑ 2YRS. @ $20

Everett & Jones Barbeque

Popular Black Oakland Restaurant Claims Racial Profiling by Oakland Police

Courtesy of Everett & Jones

Above, family members of the popular Everett & Jones Family Barbeque restaurant. The Oakland police — whose chief (Richard Word) dines frequently as a customer — recently invaded the site on New Year's Eve, 2003, claiming "some dispute" over liquor licenses. The owners pointed out that the business has two liquor licenses, and the Oakland police had never had any problem with the business.

Black-owned, famous, and successful, Everett and Jones Barbeque complained of racial profiling in Jack London Square. "It was frightening and embarrassing," said Dorothy King-Jernegan, owner of the business during a press conference, Monday, January 5, 2004 at the popular and successful restaurant. "It felt like we were criminals. This was an attack on African-American businesses."

The police disruption of a fundraiser for local nonprofits on Jan. 1, around 12:30 a.m., was racially motivated, according to King-Jernegan. She believes that other nightclubs, also owned by African-Americans, were targeted as well.

Police Chief Richard Word, who is African American, attended the press conference, and said he would investigate the conduct of police.

"Chief Word comes here a lot," King-Jernagan said, "and when he's here we don't have any problems with the police."

At the press conference Word said that there was "some dispute" over whether Que's Lounge, a nightclub operated on the premises of Everett and Jones Barbecue and also run by King-Jernegan, should have had its own liquor license and special event permit.

King-Jernegan said she has two liquor licenses and was told an additional permit was not required. The extra police presence was bad for business because customers said streets were blocked off and the extra police made the area seem unsafe for couples, according to King-Jernagan.

On top of being detrimental to Everett & Jones' business, this police action will end up being paid for by Oakland citizens out of city taxes. This is because police overtime draws directly on the city budget at the expense of other departments. It gets paid from city coffers whether there's a budget for it or not, which allows the police to sneak around the budget process. This in turn allows city officials to cite a tight budget as a pretext for closing our schools, clinics and hospitals, and for firing and cutting teacher's salaries.

Courtesy of Everett & Jones

World-renowned writer, scholar and poet, Maya Angelou (second from right), with admirers, dines at Everett & Jones restaurant.

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS BRIEFS

More Questions Raised About Army-Halliburton Contract

According to a document from the Army Corps of Engineers, Halliburton, Vice President Dick Cheney's former corporation, "chose a high-priced Kuwaiti supplier for gasoline in Iraq just one day after considering bids from only three companies." The Defense Contract Audit Agency has asked the Pentagon's inspector general to investigate a "suspected irregularity" that may have resulted in Altanmia, the Kuwaiti supplier, having "overcharged the Army by $61 million between May and September. The referral to the inspector general indicates that the auditors suspect illegal activity." *Oakland Tribune,* Jan 16, 2004, p. 8 NEWS

California's Job Loss Continues

"The state lost 8,400 jobs outside the farm sector in December, the sixth month in the last seven that California payrolls shrank" the Employment Development Department of California reported for December 2003. Nevertheless, they reported an overall drop in unemployment from 6.5% to 6.4% for that month. They managed to do this by dropping "thousands of people" from the unemployment records who were "no longer counted as unemployed," presumably because their unemployment insurance had run out. *San Francisco Chronicle*, Jan 17, 2004, p. B1

Insurance Plan Deficit Surges to All-Time High

29,500 pension plans covering about 35 million people are underfunded by more that $350 billion. This is due to decreasing profit rates and to "laws that do not require employers to maintain full funding levels in their retirement plans."

Oakland Tribune, Jan 16, 2004, p. 4 NEWS

Bush Proposal on Workers Brings Warning

Critics of Bush's plan to "grant legal status to millions of undocumented workers" feel that it may have similar results to the bracero program from the time of World War II. According to "...Oscar Martinez, a history professor at the University of Arizona, ... the braceros didn't have many of the same rights as Americans. 'Braceros were at the mercy of the employers,' Martinez said. 'There was limited government oversight and there were lots of abuses.'"

"Some braceros are still engaged in a legal battle with the U.S. and Mexican governments, seeking money that was set aside in savings funds to be paid to them once they returned to Mexico." *Oakland Tribune,* Jan 11, 2004, p. 4 NEWS

Museum of African American Technology
Science Village

A Great Place Where Science is Fun
* **Community Science Events**
* **Science Exhibits**
* **Computer Lab and Classes**
* **Library**
* **Science Carnival**
* **Science Events Consultants**
* **Technical Business Development**

630 20th St. (@ San Pablo)
Oakland, CA 94619
Phone: 510-893-6426
Hours: Saturday, 12-6pm
Sunday, 2-6pm

www.ncalifblackengineers.org
nccbpe@sbcglobal.net

PAN ***African City Alive!***

"a fine Africentric shop for all your Africentric needs since 1993"

Jewelry
Kwanzaa Kits
African Clothes
Zawadi Gift Baskets

Ethnic Arts and Crafts
Selected African Fabric
Culture/History Books

2121A St. Francis Drive
Embarcadero West at Hwy.101
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Tel 650-856-8335
Fax 650-323-3510

OPEN 10AM to 7PM Tues. - Sat. CLOSED: Sun and Mon
Keisha & A. Peter Evans Owners/Operators
Africacity@aol.com
Africancityalive.com online as of November 1, 2003

Don's Headquarters
(Formerly Cook Barber Shop)
Known for professional service and courtesy
3019 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, California
(510) 540-9115

International Update

May 1, 2003 Speech by President Fidel Castro

Cuba Has Never Betrayed its Principles

Courtesy of Ocean Press

In 1960, Fidel Castro with Egypt's Nasser at the Hotel Theresa, a popular black hotel in Harlem, New York City.

Editor's note: In his May Day speech to the Cuban people, Fidel Castro lists the accomplishments of the revolution and the new dangers posed by U.S. aggression, and makes an appeal to the American people.

Cuba has always preached by example. It has never given in. It has never sold out the cause of another people. It has never made concessions. It has never betrayed its principles. There must be some reason why, just 48 hours ago, it was reelected by acclamation in the United Nations Economic and Social Council to another three years in the Commission on Human Rights, of which it has now been a member for 15 straight years.

More than half a million Cubans have carried out internationalist missions as combatants, as teachers, as technicians or as doctors and health care workers. Tens of thousands of the latter have provided their services and saved millions of lives over the course of more than 40 years. There are currently 3000 specialists in Comprehensive General Medicine and other health care personnel working in the most isolated regions of 18 Third World countries. Through preventive and therapeutic methods they save hundreds of thousands of lives every year, and maintain or restore the health of millions of people, without charging a penny for their services.

Without the Cuban doctors offered to the United Nations in the event that the necessary funds are obtained — without which entire nations and even whole regions of sub-Sahara Africa face the risk of perishing — the crucial programs urgently needed to fight AIDS would be impossible to carry out.

The developed capitalist world has created abundant financial capital, but it has not in any way created the human capital that the Third World desperately needs.

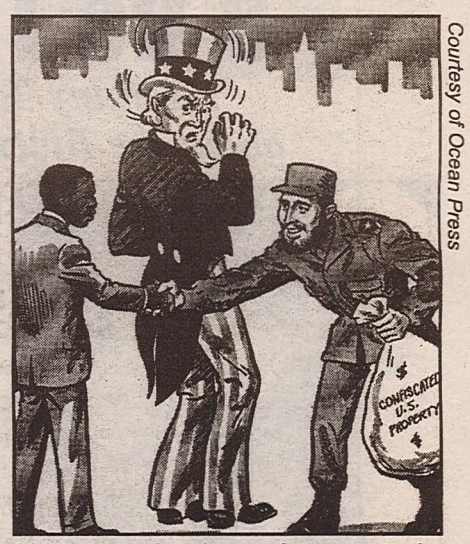
Cuba has developed techniques to teach reading and writing by radio, with accompanying texts now available in five languages – Haitian Creole, Portuguese, French, English, and Spanish – that are already being used in numerous countries. It is nearing completion of a similar program in Spanish, of exceptionally high quality, to teach literacy by television. These are programs that were developed in Cuba and are genuinely Cuban. We are not interested in patents and exclusive copyrights. We are willing to offer them to all of the countries of the Third World, where most of the world's illiterate are concentrated, without charging a penny. In five years, the 800 million illiterate people in the world could be reduced by 80 percent, at a minimal cost.

Why Cuba Survives

After the demise of the USSR and the socialist bloc, nobody would have bet a dime on the survival of the Cuban Revolution. The United States tightened the blockade. The Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts were adopted, the latter extraterritorial in nature. We abruptly lost our main markets and supply sources. The population's average calorie and protein consumption was reduced by almost half. But our country withstood the pressures and even advanced considerably in the social field.

Today, it has largely recovered with regard to nutritional requirements and is rapidly progressing in other fields. Even in these conditions, the work undertaken in the consciousness built throughout the years succeeded in working miracles. Why have we endured? Because the Revolution has always had, as it still does and always will to an ever-greater degree, the support of the people, and intelligent people, increasingly united, educated, and combative.

Cuba was the first country to extend its solidarity to the people of the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. It was also the first to warn of the neo-fascist nature of the policy that the extreme right in the United States, which fraudulently came to power in November of 2000, was planning to impose on the rest of the world. This policy did not emerge as a response to the atrocious terrorist attack perpetrated against the people of the United States by members of a fanatical organization that had served other U.S. administrations in the past. It was coldly and carefully conceived and developed, which explains the country's military build-up and enormous spending on weapons at a time when the Cold War was already over, and long before Sept. 11, 2001. The fateful events of that day served as an ideal pretext for the implementation of such a policy.

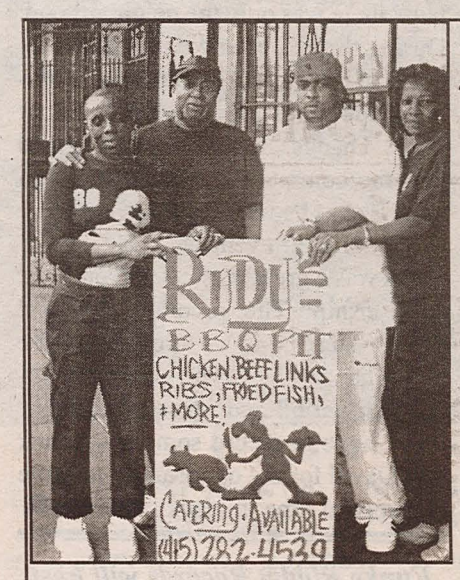


Courtesy of Ocean Press

On Sept. 20 of that year, President Bush openly expressed this policy before a Congress shaken by the tragic events of nine days earlier. Using bizarre terminology, he spoke of "infinite justice" as the goal of a war that would apparently be infinite as well.

"Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign, unlike any other we have ever seen… We will use every necessary weapon of war."

Continued on page 10



Affordable Prices

Side Orders	Entrees
French Fries	**Chicken*
Potato Salad	**Cat Fish*
Baked Beans	**Red Snapper*
Spaghetti	**Pork Ribs*
	**Links*

1-way, 2-way or 3-way

THE BEST Q ON THE PLANET

Rudy's Place #1 @ 4712 Third Street, San Francisco 415.282.4539
Rudy's Place #2 @ 7130 International Blvd., Oakland 510.569.5300

Nutt'n 2

Braiding Salon

Braids
Micros
Singles
Cornrolls
Interlocks
Twist
Handroll Locks
Weaves

All Styles
Perms
Waves
Colors
Cuts
Flat Iron
Press & Curl
Relaxers

We appreciate your patronage. Call to make your appointment today.

Ph: (510) 261-6561

Felicia, Heather, Kristal, Michelle

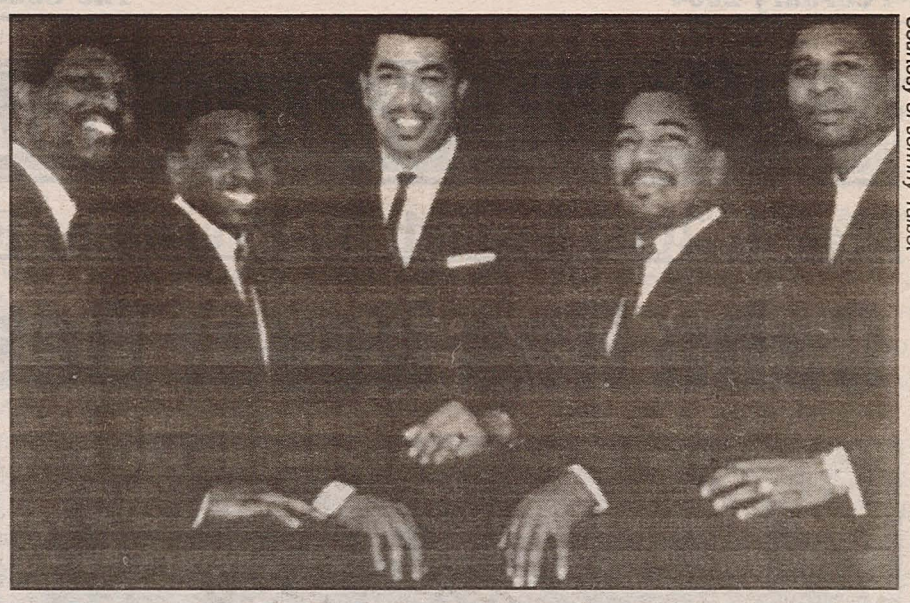
5369 Bancroft Ave. Oakland, California

Artist Corner

Oakland Funk Music Pioneers

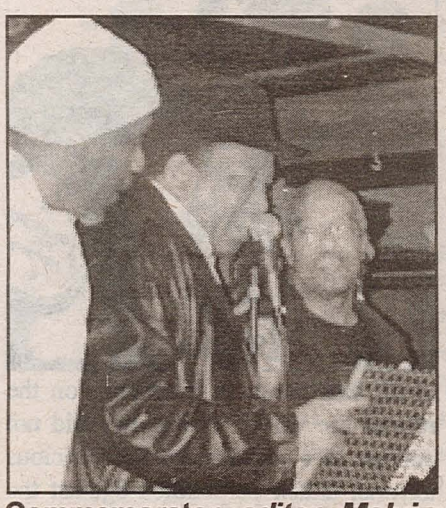
Johnny Talbot & De Thangs

Johnny Tells His Story about the Black Panther Party



Courtesy of Johnny Talbot

De Thangs: Lamon Scott, Leon Ross, Don Orvis, Curtis "Bo" Marshall, and Johnny Talbot were high school buddies. They performed at Berkeley's Down Low Lounge.



CCBPP Photo

Commemorator *editor Melvin Dickson, introduces Melvin Scott, Wendell Basey, and world-noted Bluesmen, Johnny Talbot and De Thangs.*

CCBPP Photo

Johnny Talbot & De Thangs launched a new release of* Bay Area Funk, *at Berkeley Down Low lounge, on November 7, 2003.

CCBPP Photo

At the Shattuck Down Low Lounge in Berkeley on November 7, 2003, Gabe puts spin on* Bay Area Funk, *a new CD and vinyl release produced by Funky Riddm Records.

CCBPP Photo

Commemorator *volunteer, Virna Tolentino runs CCBPP literature table at the Blues performance.*

Editor's Note: Johnny Tolbert and De Thangs is one of the most respected, long-standing musical names in the country. Johnny is a world-renowned guitarist, poet, composer and song stylist. He has recorded for United Artists and Atlantic Records and presently records for the Bullseye Blues label. He recently completed an extended tour as lead guitarist for the great Bobby "Blue" Bland, and has served as Music Director for Etta James, Marvin Gaye and Aretha Franklin.

By Johnny Talbot

The Black Panthers.

Huey P. Newton started calling me Johnny Guitar. We met as teens around Bushrod and DeFremery Parks in Oakland (later Panthers memorialized DeFremery as Li'l Bobby Hutton Park). Huey had political desires; mine were musical. Later our directions would merge.

A few years passed, then we met by chance in Oakland's Police Station. Huey was defending himself in court and I was paying a traffic fine. As I spoke of a just-completed music tour with Marvin Gaye, Huey spoke of recently returning from a political conference in Detroit with H. Rap Brown. We both beamed with pride, a musician and a Panther.

Pride made the Panther's mystique irresistible for many young Blacks. One of my family members died as a Panther soldier. When I was associated with the group, Huey was incarcerated. Years later we had conversations at local nightclubs and speakeasies but we never discussed how my Panther relationship developed.

One day I was watching television coverage of a Panther rally. The brothers speaking pumped up the crowd with chants: "Power to the people! Huey must be free! Today's pig is tomorrow's bacon!" It was an engrossing event but the band was terrible. One ingredient was missing, some good Oakland funk. I went immediately to Panther headquarters, where I talked with David Hilliard about providing music for their events.

I have utmost respect for David. By 1969, most Panther leaders were killed, jailed or had fled the country. The organization was in disarray and the community knew it. David was left to steer ship alone. More than ever the group needed to raise money.

During the romantic "Camelot" years, names like Jane Fonda, Leonard Bernstein and Marlon Brando were associated with Panther fundraising. Now there was only the neighborhood. During the sixties and early seventies, the funkiest music in Oakland neighborhoods belonged to Johnny Talbot & De Thangs. So David and I agreed that the community and the Panthers alike would be well served if I provide music for their events.

It was a great musical and political relationship. The revolutionary and artistic spirit was so strong. I wrote "De Thang" and "Jivin' People" during that period and other great music that I hope to record someday. Thank you David for the opportunity to serve at a special time in black history.

Funky Riddm Records will host Johnny Talbot & De Thangs, on March 19, 2004 at the* Shattuck Down Low, *2284 Shattuck, Berkeley, CA

yes on measure i

Cut Costs, Expand Democracy

"If you want real campaign finance reform, here's what you've got to do: You have to do public financing of campaigns, you have to have instant runoff voting, so Ralph Nader doesn't take the election away from Al Gore, and you've got to say free speech and political contributions are not the same thing."

-- Howard Dean

Measure I Cuts Costs. Measure I combines the general election and the runoff into the same election, by asking voters for their second and third choices the first time they vote. Runoff elections cost Berkeley up to $300,000 each time out. With Measure I, no runoffs will *ever* be necessary.

Measure I eliminates low turnout elections. Turnout in Berkeley's December runoffs is 28% lower than in November elections. Extra winter elections disenfranchise the disabled, working people, and students.

Measure I ensures majority winners. Right now Berkeley avoids some runoffs by allowing candidates to be elected with 45% of the vote – and some people want to make it 40%! With Measure I, elected officials will be majority winners.

No More Spoilers. New candidates can run without worrying about "spoiling" the election, because their supporters will be able to vote for them *and also vote for the candidate they prefer among the ones most likely to win.* Measure I will ensure that all voices can be heard!

Vote Yes on Measure I
March 2, 2004

Partial list of endorsers:

Tom Bates, Berkeley Mayor
Margaret Breland, Mim Hawley, Linda Maio, Dona Spring, Kriss Worthington, Berkeley City Councilmembers
John Selawsky, Berkeley School Board
Howard Chong, Rent Stabilization Board
Loni Hancock, Assemblywoman
Darryl Moore, Trustee, Peralta Community College District
Willie Harold, Human Welfare and Community Action Commissioner
Judy Bertelsen, M.D., Ph.D., Alameda County Medical Center
Nancy Bickel, President, Berkeley League of Women Voters
Helen Burke, Sierra Club
Anuradha Joshi, Associated Students of Univ. of California
Caleb Kleppner, Center for Voting and Democracy
Jack Kurzweil, Exec. Bd., Wellstone Democratic Club
Phyllis Willett, SEIU, local 250

Sponsored by "Yes on Measure I" Committee

Letters to the Editor

California State Overseer Seeks School Closures

Photo by F. Tony Salazar

Over 1,000 Oaklanders came to OUSD headquarters in early January to voice their opposition to any and all school closures, as many were locked out of the meeting.

If you were planning the death of public education, one of the foundations of a democratic society, you could not be more on target...the school closings are just part of the takeaways affecting poor neighborhoods under the guise of balancing the budget."
-Oakland resident Jennifer Dannenberg
Oakland Tribune, 1/4/04

Dear Editor:

The State Administrator for Oakland Schools, Randolph Ward, celebrated Thanksgiving by threatening to close five to ten Oakland schools.

Appointed just last spring to oversee the $100 million State takeover of the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), Ward cited declining enrollment, vacant classrooms and budget shortfalls as his reasons for the move.

The Oakland School Board, which has been relegated to an advisory role under Ward, then celebrated Christmas by releasing a list of 13 schools that would be targeted for closure.

On the chopping block were mostly elementary schools in Oakland flatland neighborhoods with high concentrations of African American families. This campaign mirrors the statewide trend of state takeovers, which have thus far targeted seven of the state's school districts with the highest concentrations of African American students.

It just so happens that Ward, despite his African American background, is a long-time registered member of George Wallace's American Independent Party, which actively seeks to expel the children of undocumented immigrants from public schools, end bilingual instruction, repeal the voting rights act, scrap all affirmative action programs and close the US Department of Education altogether.

As Mayor Jerry Brown continues his gentrification of the city's working class neighborhoods under his "10K" initiative, Ward promised more and more school closures in response to

Continued on Page 13

"Save Our Schools!" and "Let Us In!"

Dear Editor:

On the same day that Governor Schwarzenegger called for the suspension of the state's minimum school funding requirement (Proposition 98) and proposed a $2 billion budget cut to public education, the State Appointed Oakland Schools Chief, Randolph Ward, held a public forum at the District headquarters office in a vain attempt to present a thin facade of democracy within the Oakland Unified School District.

Over a thousand parents, families, students and teachers gathered outside the building to oppose the school closure plan, but 18 police officers and a few school security guards only allowed about 300 speakers into the building, and then locked the doors.

The unified crowd outside chanted "Save Our Schools!" and "Let Us In!" but were peaceful in nature, despite their obvious frustration at Ward's threat to close their children' schools.

Shortly before 6pm, a sign was held up from inside the front door stating that the only two middle schools on the hit list, Carter and King Estates, were being taken off the list.

At about 6:10pm, security officials at the entrance threatened the people that they would be "shuttin' down" the situation, a thinly veiled violent threat (taken into the context of the 18 or so armed OPD officers inside the lobby who were throwing menacing scowls at the people near the doors).

Frustrated parents who had been locked out of the school district office for over an hour began talking about keeping their kids home from school in an effort to cut off state funding to the schools. There didn't seem to be any other alternatives, and the school district was using armed thugs to prevent Ward from having to hear these people's pleas.

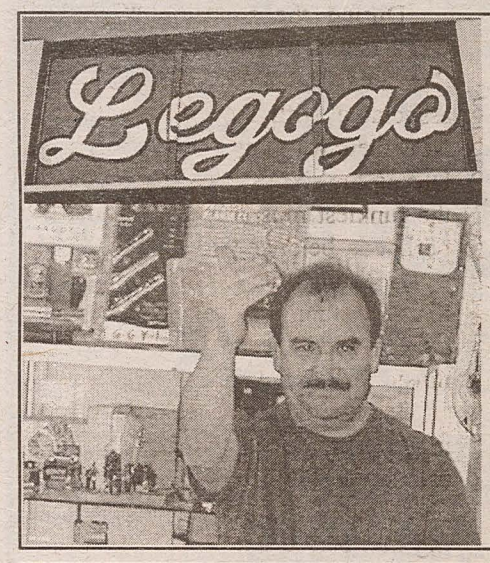
One of the OPD officers blocking the building entrance, an overweight man, had the nerve to be wearing Easton batting gloves! This coward had a terrifying scowl on his face, as if he *wanted* something to go down, even though the overwhelming majority of the crowd were mothers and their children.

He pretty much epitomized the entire situation.

School Board President Dan Siegel commented on the event the next day, saying, "The community's response to Ward's proposal to close Oakland's schools was clear and overwhelming. To see 1000 people come out to support their schools confirms that these small schools are working and disproves the claim that they are failing their students."

"Our fight to save these schools — and to return the school district to local control that is accountable to our community — is the first major civil rights battle of 2004," he added.

Vincent Lagrimas
Oakland



Legogo
811 Washington
(between 8th & 9th Street)
Oakland, CA 94607

(510) 832-1659
Mon-Sat: 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

"A Little Bit of Everything"
Leonel Gonzalez

Black Oak Books

1491 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709
510-486-0698
510-466-0699

630 Irving St.
(Between 7th & 8th Ave.)
S.F. CA
415-564-0877

540 Broadway
(@ Columbus, across from City Lights)
S.F., CA
415-986-3872

Everett and Jones
BARBEQUE
RESTAURANT
CATERING
TAKE OUT
SUPER Q

Six Convenient Locations:
2676 Fruitvale Ave. Oakland, Ph # (510) 533-0900
296 A St. Hayward, Ph# (510) 581-3222
1955 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley, Ph# (510) 548-8261
3415 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, Ph# (510) 601-9377
8740 E. 14th St. Oakland, Ph# (510) 638-6400
126 Broadway, Oakland, Ph# (510) 663-2350

Harriet Tubman Medical Office

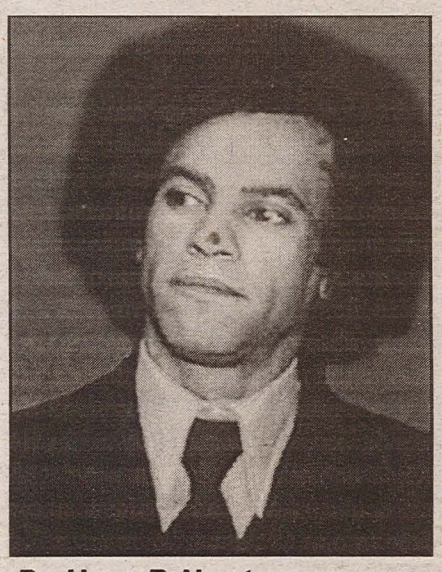
819 Foothill Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94606
(510) 286-8300
General Internal Medicine

Tolbert J. Small, M.D.
Candace Byers, P.A.-C
Robert Estis, P.A.-C

Archives

COINTELPRO: THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

Huey's Corner



BPP Intercommunal News

Dr. Huey P. Newton

Editor's Note: The article below is a continuation from the October 2003 issue, taken from Dr. Huey P. Newton's 1977 Ph.D. Dissertation on the History of Consciousness, at the University of California, Santa Cruz. The thesis was published by the Huey P. Newton foundation in a book called "The War Against the Panthers: A study of Oppression in America," (Writer and Readers, 1999), and is available at your local bookstore. The article portrays the extent to which the FBI went to split the BPP on the basis of ideology and personality.

Fostering the Newton-Cleaver Split

In March 1970, the FBI zeroed in on Eldridge Cleaver, then in exile in Algiers after he had been told to leave Cuba. The Bureau learned that the high-strung Cleaver had "accepted as bonafide" a fictitious letter "stating that BPP leaders in California were seeking to undercut his influence."[72]

For the next year, FBI field offices supplied Cleaver with a steady stream of messages containing erroneous information about various Black Panther Party leaders and activities, especially about Huey Newton. After his release from prison in August 1970, Cleaver led a Black Panther Party-sponsored delegation of American activists to North Korea and North Vietnam. After the conclusion of the tour, "the Los Angeles FBI field office was asked to prepare an anonymous letter to Cleaver criticizing Newton for not aggressively obtaining BPP press coverage of the BPP's sponsorship of the trip."[73]

In December 1970, with the adoption of the Key Black Extremist program, the FBI increased its COINTELPRO efforts to turn Cleaver against Newton. The Bureau issued instructions to:

Write numerous letters to Cleaver criticizing Newton for his lack of leadership. It is felt that, if Cleaver received a sufficient number of complaints regarding Newton it might...create dissension that later could be more fully exploited.[74]

One letter to Cleaver, written to appear as if it had come from Connie Matthews, then Newton's personal secretary, read in part:

I know you have not been told what has been happening lately...Things around headquarters are dreadfully disorganized with the comrade commander not making proper decisions. The newspaper is in a shambles. No one knows who is in charge. The foreign department gets no support. Brothers and sisters are accused of all sorts of things...

I am disturbed because I, myself, do not know which way to turn...If only you were here to inject some strength into the movement, or to give some advice. One of two steps must be taken soon and both are drastic. We must either get rid of the supreme commander or get rid of the disloyal members... –Huey is really all we have right now and we can't let him down, regardless of how poorly he is acting, unless you feel otherwise.[75]

More flattery came from "Algonquin J. Fuller, Youth Against War and Fascism, New York," supposedly one of Cleaver's white admirers:

Let me tell you what has happened to our brothers in the Party since you left and that "Pretty Nigger Newton" in his funky clothes has been running things....

Brother Eldridge, to me as an outsider but one who believes in the revolution, it seems that the Panthers need a leader in America who will bring the Party back to the People.

Brother Newton has failed you and the Party. The Panthers do not need a "day time revolutionary, a night time party goer and African fashion model as a leader." They need the leadership which only you can supply.[76]

The New York FBI field office mailed another fictitious letter to Cleaver, supposedly from the "New York Panther 21," in order to "further aggravate the strained relationship between Newton and Cleaver":

As you are aware, we of the Panther 21 have always been loyal to the Party and continue to feel a close allegiance to you and the ideology of the party which has been developed mainly through your efforts....

We know that you have never let us down and have always inspired us through your participation in the vanguard party. As the leading theoretician of the party's philosophy and as brother among brother, we urge you to make your influence felt. We think that The Rage [i.e., Cleaver] is the only person strong enough to pull this factionalized party back together....

You are our remaining hope in our struggle to fight oppression within and without the Party.[77]

By late January 1971, the Bureau's COINTELPRO campaign had begun to achieve favorable results. Cleaver was responding to the prompting of the disinformation campaign. One Bureau memorandum reported that Cleaver considered one of the fictitious letters to contain "good information about the Party."[78] Another COINTELPRO report ebulliently noted that "Cleaver has never previously disclosed to BPP officials the receipt of prior COINTELPRO letters."[79]

Now was the time for the Bureau to "more fully exploit" the dissension it had fostered. FBI Headquarters directed the field office to intensify the campaign against the Black Panther Party:

The Present chaotic situation within the BPP must be exploited and recipients must maintain the present high level of counter-intelligence activity. You should each give this matter priority attention and immediately furnish Bureau recommendations ...designated to further aggravate the dissension within BPP leadership.[80]

On February 2, 1971, the FBI Headquarters directed each of twenty-nine field offices to submit within eight days a proposal to disrupt local Black Panther Party chapters and the Party's national headquarters in Oakland. The Bureau command believed its four-year-long war against Huey Newton and the Black Panther Party was nearing victory. The situation, field office supervisors were reminded,

Offers an exceptional opportunity to further disrupt, aggravate and possibly neutralize this organization through counter-intelligence. In light of above developments this program has been intensified...and selected offices should...increase measurably the pressure on the BPP and its leaders.[81]

For three solid weeks a barrage of anonymous letters flowed from FBI field offices in response to the urging from FBI Headquarters. The messages became more and more vicious. One February 19, 1971, a false letter, allegedly from a Black Panther Party member in the Bay Area, was mailed to Don Cox, Cleaver's companion in Algiers. The letter intimated that the recent disappearance and presumed death of

Continued on page 11

MICHAEL BOWMAN, DBA
LIC #1738149
Calvin Glam Bail Bond
SE HABLA ESPANOL
OUR DOOR IS OPEN 24 HOURS
COLLECT CALLS ACCEPTED
(888) 303-2245
496 7th Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 444-4889
2544 McDonald Ave
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 234-0251
1804 Capitol Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
(510) 234-0251
WE ACCEPT
MasterCard VISA ATM CHECK TERMS

BPP's 37th

Continued from page 1

CCBPP Photo

Emory Douglas, former BPP, Minister of Culture, tells of his experiences joining the Party and highlights events during the early days.

the Free Huey Movement. The occasion was part reunion, part outreach, and also a benefit for CCBPP's Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign.

Cotton opened the evening talking about the purpose of the event, to acknowledge the 37th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party and to show support for Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign. "The literacy campaign seeks to empower Bay Area participants through building a process of positive programs, starting with progressive education, such as *The Commemorator* and the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign," stated Cotton.

The first speaker was Bernadette Ja'net, coordinator of the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign, who in talking about the program challenged the audience: "We can either demolish our communities, or we can build them up." Ms. Ja'net also shared two lovely a capella songs she wrote herself. In part, the lyrics said, "Killing revolutionaries, making crooks dignitaries, painting futures oh so scary, before our time. Reinstating slavery, with private prison industry — and that's a crime."

Commemorator editor Melvin Dickson spoke next. He talked about the birth of the BPP, and the larger movement it was a part of. Dickson also encouraged community participation by taking out bundles of *The Commemorator* and circulating them to expand the campaigns and programs of the CCBPP in order to advance the goals and principles of the Black Panther Party. "There would be no police repression if there was no poverty in our communities. Poverty and illiteracy go hand-in-hand, not just in Oakland, but also throughout the country and the world. That's why we continue to work to advance the Ten Point Program."

Civil Rights Attorney John Burris, lead counsel for the victims of a notorious band of Oakland policemen known as the "Oakland Riders" that have a record of corruption and intimidation in Oakland's low-income black community, presented an update on the criminal case against the police. Commenting on the recent mistrial in the "Riders" case, in which the jury only reached a verdict in eight of 35 charges against the three officers, Mr. Burris pointed out how the actions of

CCBPP Photo

Bernadette Ja'net, coordinator of the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign, "We can either demolish our communities, or we can build them up."

CCBPP Photo

Civil rights attorney, John Burris, speaks out at the 37th BPP Anniversary, "There's work to be done."

the Riders case were especially egregious because they victimized people who had no means of refuting false charges made against them. The officers were acquitted on eight charges, including felony assault and kidnapping. But the jury deadlocked on the remaining 27 charges, including false arrest, conspiracy and writing false information in police reports.

Burris stated, "The Riders' case is a clear example of people who were victimized who really didn't have anyone to speak for them, many of whom had some prior criminal histories, but none of them were engaged in unlawful activity when they were arrested… It is one of the worst forms of police corruption."

He went on to talk about another recent case in which Oakland Police officers entered the apartment of a twenty year old African American man, woke him up, and murdered him while he was still lying in his bed. Burris encouraged the crowd to contact District Attorney Tom Orloff to let him know that the community will not tolerate police corruption.

In closing, he echoed the sentiments of the previous speakers in saying, "There is work to be done…"

After Burris, Emory Douglas, former BPP Minister of Culture, talked about joining the Party, and his experiences during the early days. He had the audience on the edge of their seats as he recounted his trip to the state capitol in Sacramento. Reminiscing about that fateful day, he recollected his entry into the state

Continued on page 14

Black History Month Calendar

Sunday, February 22, 2004

from 4 PM to 8 PM

Dr. Huey P. Newton's Birthday Celebration

F.U.G.I.T.I.V.E.S.

David Hilliard

Songs, Poems and BPP Presentation

Black Panther Party Alumni

Rountree (R&B Hall of Fame Museum and Restaurant),
2618 San Pablo at Carlton, Berkeley
For further information call (510) 652-7170

Sunday, February 29, 2004

from 3 PM to 6 PM

Black History Labor Celebration

Melvin Dickson,** ***Commemorator **editor will present a class**

Boston College Speech**, November 1970,**

By Dr. Huey P. Newton,

"Where there is courage, where there is self-respect and dignity, there is a possibility that we can change the conditions and win."

Poem/Song

***Music by Stargrove**

Expressions Art Gallery
512 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA
For further information call (510) 652-7170

Foothill Discount Liquors
3828 Foothill Blvd. Oakland, CA
Open everyday: 11 am to 2 am

"Unity in the hood is everyone having enough cash to live on," Moe. Phone (510) 534-2047

Cuba's Principles

Continued from page 5

"Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists."

"I've called the Armed Forces to alert, and there is a reason. The hour is coming when America will act. … This is civilization's fight. … the great achievement of our time, and the great hope of every time – now depends on us."

"The course of this conflict is not known, yet its outcome is certain … and we know that God is not neutral." Did a statesman or an unbridled fanatic speak these words?

Two days later, on Sept. 22, Cuba denounced this speech as the blueprint for the idea of a global military dictatorship imposed through brute force, without international laws or institutions of any kind.

"The United Nations organization, simply ignored in the present crisis," we said, "would fail to have any authority or prerogative whatsoever. There would be only one boss, only one judge and only one law."

Several months later, on the 200th anniversary of the West Point Military Academy, at the graduation exercise for 958 cadets on June 3, 2002, President Bush further elaborated on this line of thinking in a fiery harangue to the young soldiers graduating that day, in which he put forward his fundamental fixed ideas:

"Our security will require transforming the military you will lead – a military that must be ready to strike at a moment's notice in any dark corner of the world. And our security will require all Americans to be forward-looking and resolute, to be ready for pre-emptive action when necessary to defend our liberty and to defend our lives.

"We must uncover terror cells in 60 or more countries. … We will send you, our soldiers, where you're needed. … We will not leave the safety of America and the peace of the planet at the mercy of a few mad terrorists and tyrants. We will lift this dark threat from our country and from the world.

"Some worry that it is somehow undiplomatic or impolite to speak the language of right and wrong. I disagree. … We are in a conflict between good and evil, and America will call evil by its name. By confronting evil and lawless regimes, we do not create a problem, we reveal a problem. And we will lead the world in opposing it."

Photo courtesy of Ocean Press

Fidel Castro and Malcolm X, September 19, 1960.

Castro Responds to Bush

In the speech I delivered at a rally held in General Antonio Maceo square in Santiago de Cuba, on June 8, 2002, before half a million people, I said:

"As you can see, he doesn't mention once in his speech [at West Point] the United Nations organization. Nor is there a phrase about every people's right to safety and peace, or about the need for a world ruled by principles and norms.

"Hardly two thirds of a century has passed since humanity went through the bitter experience of Nazism. Fear was Hitler's inseparable ally against his adversaries. … Later, his fearful military force [led to] the outbreak of a war that would inflame the whole world. The lack of vision and the cowardice of the statesmen in the strongest European powers of the time opened the way to a great tragedy.

"I don't think that a fascist regime can be established in the United States. Serious mistakes have been made and injustices committed in the framework of its political system; many of them still persist, but the American people still have a number of institutions and traditions, as well as educational, cultural and ethical values that would hardly allow that to happen. The risk exists in the international arena. The power and prerogatives of that country's president are so extensive, and the economic, technological, and military power network in that nation is so pervasive that due to circumstances that fully escape the will of the American people, the world is coming under the rule of Nazi concepts and methods.

"The miserable insects that live in 60 or more countries of the world chosen by him and his closest assistants, and in the case of Cuba by his Miami friends, are completely irrelevant. They are the 'dark corners of the world' that may become the targets of their announced and 'preemptive' attacks. Not only is Cuba one of those countries, but it has also been included among those that sponsor terror."

Cuban Revolution Has a Duty to Protect Itself

I mentioned the idea of a world tyranny for the first time exactly one year, three months and 19 days before the attack on Iraq.

In the days prior to the beginning of the war, President Bush repeated once again that the United States would use, if necessary, any means within its arsenal — in other words, nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and biological weapons. The attack on, and occupation of, Afghanistan had already taken place.

Today the so-called "dissidents" actually mercenaries on the payroll of Bush's Hitler-like government, are betraying not only their homeland, but all of humanity as well.

In the face of the sinister plans against our country on the part of the neo-fascist extreme right and its allies in the Miami terrorist mob that ensured its victory through electoral fraud, I wonder how many of those individuals with supposedly leftist and humanistic stances who have attacked our people over the legal measures we were forced to adopt as a legitimate defense against the aggressive plans of the U.S. superpower have been able to read these words.

We wonder how many have recognized, denounced and condemned the policy announced in the speeches by Mr. Bush that I have quoted, which reveal a sinister Nazi-fascist international policy on the part of the leader of the country with the most powerful military force ever imagined, whose weapons could destroy defenseless humanity 10 times over. The entire world has been mobilized by the terrifying images of cities destroyed and burned by brutal bombing, images of maimed children and the shattered corpses of innocent people.

Leaving aside the blatantly opportunistic, demagogic and petty political groups we know all too well, I am now going to refer fundamentally to those who were friends of Cuba and respected fighters in the struggle.

We would not want those who have, in our opinion, attacked Cuba unjustly, due to disinformation or a lack of careful and profound analysis, to have to suffer the infinite sorrow they will feel if one day our cities are destroyed and our children and mothers, women and men, young and old, are torn apart by the bombs of Nazi-fascism, and they realize that their declarations were shamelessly manipulated by the aggressors to justify a military attack on Cuba.

Solely the numbers of children murdered and the mutilated cannot be the measure of the human damage but also the millions of children and mothers, women and men, young and old, who will remain traumatized for the rest of their lives.

We fully respect the opinions of those who oppose capital punishment for religious, philosophical, and humanitarian reasons. We Cuban revolutionaries also abhor capital punishment, for much more sound reasons than those addressed by the social sciences with regard to crime, currently under study in our country.

The day will come when we can accede to the wishes for the abolition of such penalty so nobly expressed here by Reverend Lucius Walker in his brilliant speech. The special concern over this issue is easily understood when you know that the majority of the people executed in the United States are African American and Hispanic, and not infrequently they are innocent; especially in Texas, the champion of death sentences, where President Bush was formerly the governor, and not a single execution has ever been pardoned.

The Cuban Revolution was placed in the dilemma of either protecting the lives of millions of Cubans by using the legally established death penalty to punish the three main hijackers of a passenger ferry or sitting back and doing nothing.

The U.S. government, which incites common criminals to assault boats or airplanes with passengers on board, encourages these people, gravely endangering the lives of innocents and creating the ideal conditions for an attack on Cuba. A wave of hijacking had been unleashed and was already in full development; it had to be stopped.

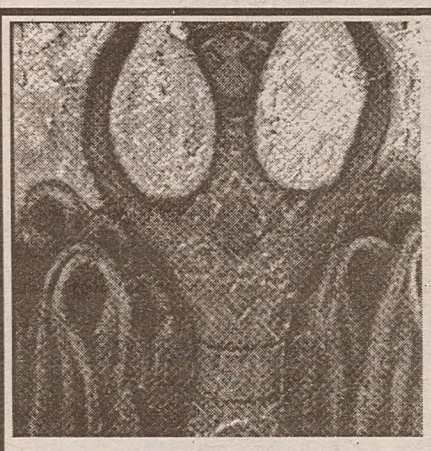
We cannot ever hesitate when it is a question of protecting the lives of the sons and daughters of a people determined to fight until the end, arresting the mercenaries who serve the aggressors and applying the most severe sanctions against terrorists who hijack passenger boats or planes or commit similarly serious acts, who will be punished by the courts in accordance with the laws in force.

Not even Jesus Christ, who drove the traders out of the temple with a whip, would fail to opt for the defense of the people.

I feel sincere and profound respect for His Holiness Pope John Paul II. I understand and admire his noble struggle for life and peace. Nobody opposed the war in Iraq as much and as tenaciously as he did. I am absolutely certain that he would have never counseled the Shiite and Sunni Muslims to let themselves be killed without defending themselves.

He would not counsel the Cubans to do such a thing, either. He knows perfectly well that this is not a problem between Cubans. This is a problem between the people of Cuba and the government of the United States.

The policy of the U.S. government is so brazenly provocative that on April 25, Mr. Kevin Whitaker, chief of the Cuban Bureau at the State



Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, Ph.D.
Professor — Women's Spirituality
California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco

349 Gravatt Drive
Berkeley, California 94705
Phone & Fax #510-841-8782
Website: www.darkmother.net
Email: lucia@darkmother.net

dark mother: african origins and godmothers (iUniverse - January 2002)

Department, informed the head of our interest section in Washington that the National Security Council's Department of Homeland security considered the continued hijacking from 10 Cuba a serious threat to the national security of the United States, and requested that the Cuban government adopt all of the necessary measures to prevent such acts.

He said this as if they were not the ones who provoke and encourage these hijacking, and as if we were not the ones who adopt drastic measures to prevent them, in order to protect the lives and safety of the passengers, and being fully aware for some time now of the criminal plans of the fascist extreme right against Cuba.

When news of this contact on April 25 was leaked, it stirred up the Miami terrorist mob. They still do not understand that their direct or indirect threats against Cuba do not frighten anyone in this country.

The hypocrisy of Western politicians and a large group of mediocre leaders is so huge that it would not fit in the Atlantic Ocean. Any measure that Cuba adopts for the purposes of its legitimate defense is reported among the top stories in almost all of the media.

On the other hand, when we pointed out that during the term in office of a Spanish head of government, dozens of ETA members were executed without trial, without anyone protesting or denouncing it before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, or that another Spanish head of government, at a difficult moment in the war in Kosovo, advised the U.S. president to step up the war, increase the bombing, and attack civilian targets — thus causing the deaths of hundreds of innocent people and tremendous suffering for millions of people — the headlines merely stated, "Castro attacks Felipe Aznar." Not a word was said about the real content.

The U.S. Agenda for Cuba

In Miami and Washington they are now discussing where, how and when Cuba will be attacked or the problem of the Revolution will be solved.

For the moment, there is talk of economic measures that will further intensify the brutal blockade, but they still do not know which to choose, who they will resign themselves to alienating, and how effective these measures may be. There are very few left for them to choose from. They have already used up almost all of them.

A shameless scoundrel with the poorly chosen first name Lincoln, and the last name Díaz Balart, an intimate friend and advisor of President Bush, has made this enigmatic statement to a Miami TV station: "I can't go into details, but we're trying to break this vicious cycle."

What methods are they considering to deal with this vicious cycle? Physically eliminating me with the sophisticated modern means they have developed, as Mr. Bush promised them in Texas before the elections? Or attacking Cuba the way they attacked Iraq?

If it were the former, it does not worry me in the least. The ideas for which I have fought all my life will not die, and they will live on for a long time.

If the solution were to attack Cuba like Iraq, I would suffer greatly because of the cost in lives and the enormous destruction it would bring on Cuba. But it might turn out to be the last of this administration's fascist attacks, because the struggle would last a very long time.

The aggressors would not merely be facing an army but rather thousands of armies that would constantly reproduce themselves and make the enemy pay such a high cost in casualties that it would far exceed the cost in lives of the sons and daughters that the American people would be willing to pay for the adventures and ideas of President Bush. Today, he enjoys majority support, but it is dropping, and tomorrow it could be reduced to zero.

Let us say like Che Guevara when he bid us farewell: Ever onward to victory.

The American people, the millions of highly cultivated individuals who reason and think, their basic ethical principles, the tens of millions of computers with which to communicate, hundreds of times more than at the end of the Viet Nam War, will show that you cannot fool all of the people, and perhaps not even part of the people, all of the time. One day they will put a straightjacket on those who need it before they manage to annihilate life on the planet.

On behalf of the one million people gathered here this May Day, I want to convey a message to the world and the America people:

We do not want the blood of Cubans and Americans to be shed in a war. We do not want a countless number of lives of people who could be friends to be lost in an armed conflict. But never has a people had such sacred things to defend, or such profound convictions to fight for, to such a degree that they would rather be obliterated from the face of the Earth than abandon the noble and generous work for which so many generations of Cubans have paid the high cost of the lives of many of their finest sons and daughters.

We are sustained by the deepest conviction that ideas are worth more than weapons, no matter how sophisticated and powerful those weapons may be.

Let us say like Che Guevara when he bid us farewell: Ever onward to victory.

Huey's Corner:

Continued from page 8

Black Panther leader Fred Bennett was the result of Party factionalism.[82]

On February 24, an urgent teletype message from the FBI director authorized the most daring step in the campaign – a falsified message to Cleaver from a member of the Party's Central Committee. A letter over the forged signature of Elbert "Big Man" Howard, editor of The Black Panther newspaper, told Cleaver:

Eldridge,

John Seale told me that Huey talked to you Friday and what he had to say. I am disgusted with things here and the fact that you are being ignored. I am loyal to the Party and it makes me mad to learn that Huey now has to lie to you. I am referring to his fancy apartment which he refers to as his throne. I think you should know that he picked the place out himself, not the Central Committee, and the high rent is from Party funds and not paid by anyone else. Many of the others are upset about this waste of money. It is needed for other Party work here and also in Algeria. It seems the least Huey could do is furnish you the money and live with the rest of us. Since Huey will lie to you about this, you can see how it is with him. You would be amazed at what is actually happening.

I wish there was some way I could get in touch with you but in view of Huey's orders it is not possible. You should really know what's happening and statements made about you. I can't risk a call as it would mean certain expulsion. You should think a great deal before before sending Kathleen. If I could talk to you I could tell you why I don't think you should.

Big Man[83]

Eldridge Cleaver apparently believed the letter to be legitimate. Huey Newton telephoned Algiers to ask Cleaver to participate in a long-distance telephone hook-up on a San Francisco television talk show; Cleaver agreed to the plan. Three hours later, when the TV station's call to Algiers went through Cleaver launched into a furious criticism of the Black Panther Party's Central Committee and demanded that Panther Chief of Staff David Hilliard be removed from his post, and attacked the "breakfast" program as reformist.[84]

Cleaver had regained his place in the spotlight if only for a moment. When the Central Committee expelled him from the Black Panther Party for his behavior, Cleaver announced that the "real" Black Panther Party would thereafter be directed from Algiers. Like an ultra-left sorcerer's apprentice with the gift of verbal magic, Cleaver frenetically tried to coalesce his own followers with trans-Atlantic exhortations for immediate guerrilla warfare.

FBI officials were elated. In mid-March, FBI Headquarters declared its COINTELPRO operation aimed at "aggravating dissension" between Newton and Cleaver a success. New instructions for the field offices were promulgated:

Counter-intelligence activity in this regard will be undertaken at this time and now new targets must be established.

David Hilliard and Elbert "Big Man" Howard of National Head-quarters and Bob Rush of Chicago BPP Chapter are likely future targets....

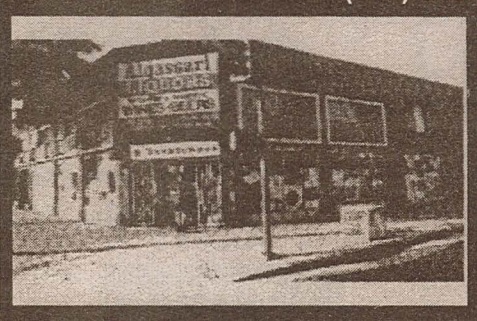
Hilliard's key position at National Headquarters makes him an outstanding target. Howard and Rush are also key Panther functionaries...making them prime targets.[85]

The Black Panther newspaper dated April 17, 1971, the last issue Party member Samuel Napier was to distribute before his murder by alleged Cleaver supporters, carried Huey Newton's assessment of the Eldridge Cleaver episode and the difficulties it had brought upon the Party:

I had asked Eldridge Cleaver to join the Party a number of times. But he did not join until after the confrontation with the police in front of the office of Ramparts *magazine, where the police were afraid to go for their guns. Without my knowledge, he took this as the Revolution and the Party. But in our basic program it was not until Point 7 that we mentioned the gun, and this was intentional. We were trying to build a political vehicle through which the people could express their revolutionary desires. We recognized that no party or organization can make the revolution, only the people can. All we could do was act as a guide to the people, because revolution is a process, and because the process moves in a dialectical manner...*

When Eldridge joined the Party it was after the police confrontations, which left him fixated with the "either-or" attitude. This was that either the community picked up the gun with the Party or else they were cowards and there was no place for them.... Sometimes there are those who express personal problems in political terms, and if they are eloquent, then these personal problems can sound very political. We charge Eldridge Cleaver with this. Much of it is probably beyond his control, because it is so personal...Under the influence of Eldridge Cleaver the Party gave the community no alternate for dealing with us, except by picking up the gun...

Eldridge Cleaver influenced us to isolate ourselves from the Black community, so that it was war between the oppressor and the Black Panther Party, not war between the oppressor and the oppressed community.[86]

ANNAHER
Grocery, Produce, Liquors, Lotto, Lottery, Money Orders, Copymate and Other Items To Go
2451 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 849-2502

*Good Prices *Great Service
Welcome Anytime
Mon-Thurs 7am-10pm
Fri-Sat 8am-Midnight
Sun 8am-10pm
Mohamed Alqassari, Manager

Government Repression

Continued from page 1

These gentrification schemes put more heat on the low-income communities and people already struggling on the edge of survival. As the federal government promotes globalization and, hence, the loss of thousands of jobs in the U.S., they must also increase the oppression. One of the manifestations of this is increased police repression, both legal and so-called "illegal," meaning the cases where supervisors look the other way while police officers commit atrocities.

Oakland Riders: Rogue Police Officers – a Case in Point

One example is the case of the so-called "Oakland Riders," a gang of four officers in Oakland, California, identified finally in 2002 and put on trial in 2003 for false arrest, felony assault, falsification of evidence and other crimes. In the course of their year-long trial, they claimed that top city officials had given them the general order to suppress street crime in West Oakland and not worry too much about their methods. They engaged in "pre-emptive" arrests of previously convicted people.

"The Riders case is a clear example of people who were victimized (by the police). Many had some prior history, but none of them were engaged in unlawful activities when they were arrested," said John Burris, an Oakland civil rights attorney and counsel for victims in the Riders case. "It wasn't only those four officers, but other officers who participated in unlawfully arresting people, taking people off the streets, planting drugs, giving perjured testimony, causing them to go to city jail and state prison for crimes they did not commit. This is one of the worst cases of police corruption I have seen throughout the country and it is something that has to stop." John Burris was a featured speaker at the 37th Founding Anniversary of the Black Panther Party last October 17 in Oakland's Jahva House, sponsored by Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party.

Murder of Terrence Mearis, Oakland 20-Year Old Black Youth

Another case in point is the murder of Terrence Mearis in Oakland, California: "At 12:30 a.m. is when the police arrived. I saw the lights flashing through the windows. And when I went and looked out of the window, they had one of the boys and arrested him," said Myisha, who lives nearby the murder scene, according to a *San Francisco Bay View* article, October 22, 2003, by J.R. Valery. She was an eyewitness to the act of police terrorism that went down last October 5 on 92nd and C Street in what residents call "Deep East Oakland."

"The police went upstairs. I just heard all of the beating. I heard a lot of tumbling, and I just heard Terrence screaming. When we ran upstairs, they were just beating him to death – for at least the five minutes that we were standing there.

"We saw them beating him. We were watching. They were beating him with batons, with their fists, their feet, with everything. I heard Officer Vass say 'Shoot him.' And after a while I just heard clicks like they were cocking their guns ready. Three seconds later was when I heard three gunshots. I started running down the stairs. That's when all of the other gunshots happened." John Burris is also representing the family of Terrence Mearis.

Unabated Police Repression Cincinnati, OH

In December 2003, four Cincinnati, Ohio police officers repeatedly clubbed Nathaniel Jones until he was beaten to death. Jones weighed 342 pounds and had an enlarged heart. He died from the stressful effects of the beating according to the coroner's report. The police pleaded that he was under the influence of cocaine and PCP. The incident occurred just a month after the city of Cincinnati finalized a $4.5 million settlement to families of black males wrongfully killed by white police officers who engaged in racial profiling of drivers. Kathleen Parker, columnist for the Orlando Sentinel, pointed out in her early December column that this is the 18th black male killed by police in Cincinnati since 1995.

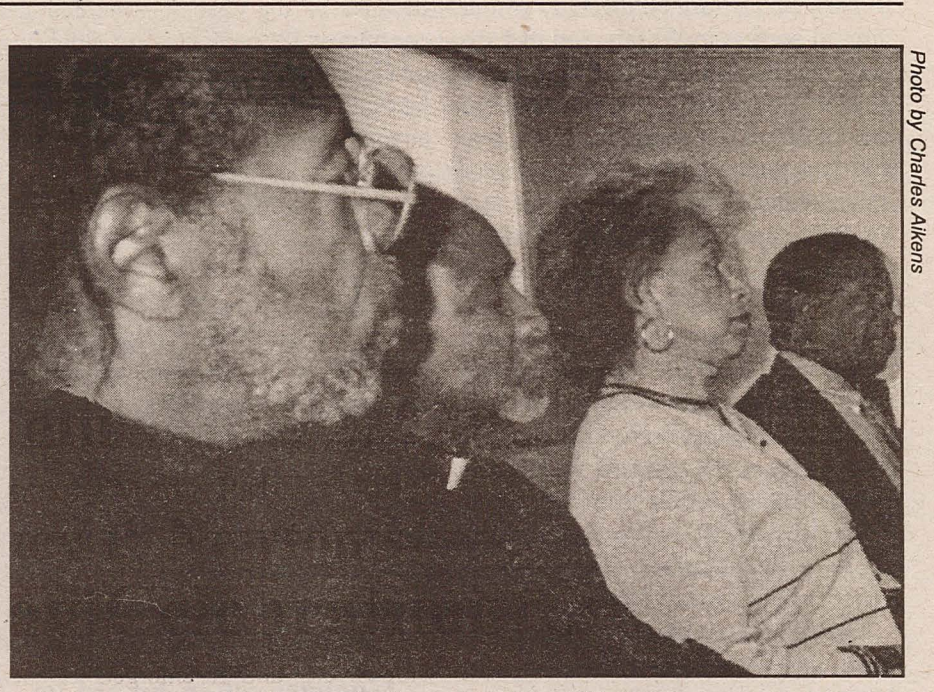


Photo by Charles Aikens

The hung jury in the notorious "Oakland Riders" case spurred the African American community to insist that District Attorney Tom Orloff demand a retrial. Above, Rev. Harvest Smith, Mrs. Samuel Edward, and other clergy and professionals met with Oakland Civil Rights attorney John Burris, hosted by Rev. Frank Pinkard, of Evergreen Baptist Church in West Oakland.

Background: The Black Panther Party Movement

Li'l Bobby Hutton, Fred Hampton, Mark Clark, Bunchy Carter and John Huggins are familiar names to the Black Liberation movement of the late 1960s and 70s. What did these Comrades have in common? They all stood for all power to the people. Power means having the ability to make a difference in fighting oppression, poverty and genocide. These honorable and courageous Comrades were all assassinated by agents of U.S. law enforcement and the federal government. Why? These Comrades were effective Black Panther leaders who dared to make a difference in their community. "I am going to die for the people because I am going to live for the people," stated Fred Hampton, Deputy Chairman of the Illinois Chapter of Black Panther Party who was murdered in his sleep by the Chicago Police Department "Red Squad" on December 4, 1969.

Panther members all took a stand, built programs, led campaigns for education, housing, health care and to end police repression and international aggression as manifested in the BPP position against the U.S. policies on the Vietnam War. Despite gross tactical errors, the Panther's Ten-Point Program set positive, clear goals within the Black Liberation Movement of the 1970s.

Since the Ten-Point Program of the Black Panther Party was conceptualized, state and federal policies have

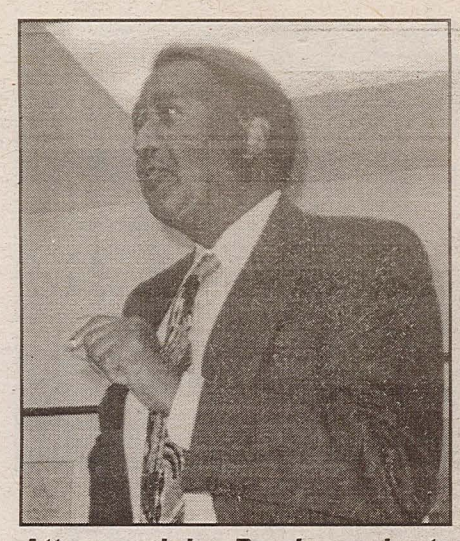
Shades of Sienna
African American Children's Books
Anita D. Alexander
582 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610
(510) 893-2767
Fax (510) 268-1731
Encourage a child to dream. Encourage a child to read.

Alkebulan Books
Land of the liberated "Hue" Man
1757 Alcatraz Avenue • Berkeley, CA • 510-595-7918
Store Hours: Mon - Fri 11am - 7pm
Sat: 12pm - 6pm Sun: 2pm - 6pm

DEVELOPMENTAL CONSULTANTS
C1²
(510) 681-5474
E-MAIL: aardc@tdl.com
Ali Ar Rasheed, J.D.
5742 Hollis Street
Emeryville, CA 94608

John Bell's
Insurance Agency
FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP
FARMERS
Auto • Home
Life • Business
3410 Lakeshore Ave., #204
Oakland, CA 94610
Bus: 510/832-1005
Fax: 510/874-4504
License #0547760

Friendly Market
*Grocery *Produce *Check cashing *Money orders
*Beer *Wine *Candy *Lottery tickets
M. KAAID
(510) 652-5519
3227 West Street
Oakland, CA 94608



CCBPP Photo

Attorney John Burris spoke to clergy and other African American professionals about the "Oakland Riders" verdict.

contributed to the economic conditions of poor, minority communities that perpetuate crime. The effect of these policies has created an exodus from lower-income communities of those people who have the financial means, organizational skills and political savvy to "escape" (i.e., rise not with but above their people). Those left behind in the ghetto are generally the poorest sectors of the minority communities. The developers, mortgage bankers, venture capitalists, wealthy landlords, large scale general contractors, rich and connected real estate speculators, government and quasi-government agencies e.g. HUD, GNMA (Ginnie-Mae), and FNMA (Fannie-Mae), use so-called community development corporations (CDC's) to camouflage their moving in for a killing in the real estate market.

Low-income landlords, tenants, businesses, families and community organizations are sent scurrying from wrecking balls, eviction, foreclosure, code violation fines, public and private liens, seizure by eminent domain and other tactics that generate mega-profits from the misery of the growing poor, minorities and working class.

There are more police, parole probation officers, FBI, DEA, BATF agents and department of (so-called child) protective services personnel in lower-income communities than any other sector of society. All of this is part of the primary and auxiliary apparatus of the modern police state.

Toward Solution: Principles of the Black Panther Party

In 1966, the Black Panther Party was formed in Oakland, California with SNCC and it emerged as the leading revolutionary organization among black youth. The Black Panther Ten Point Program, "What We Want, What We Believe," presents what type of society is needed to eradicate the conditions that comprise the daily reality of life in our oppressed communities. But we cannot permit ourselves to become isolated as BPP leaders did; we cannot leave our impoverished communities without responsible leaders; we cannot succumb to reaction and self-pity or engage in the same lynch-mob practice of scapegoating individual policemen who are charged with enforcing laws and policies it is impossible to carry out without causing irreparable harm to our communities and our society as a whole. The same media that fasely portrayed the BPP as violent does not tell the truth when it comes to finding a solution to the government policies that cause minorities to fear for their lives and teach inner-city communities that they cannot expect police, who engage in police brutality to the extent of committing murder, to be brought to justice. We need to organize with others who oppose the looting of our communities, the cutting of services and the payment of slave wages to meet the issue squarely. Organizations of volunteers willing to devote their

Continued on page 14

If we are going to reverse these attacks on our communities, our persons, our freedoms and our livelihoods, we must organize TODAY.

Illicit Drugs -
Strategy for Building Prison Industrial Complex

The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world and the majority of its prisoners are drug offenders. At the same time, the budget for this "War on Drugs" has reached unprecedented size. It has led to billions of dollars invested in Latin American war machines, but has not at all dented the availability of drugs banned in the United States. It has paved the way for mandatory life sentences for non-violent offenders and mandatory minimum sentences, which provide much longer sentences than those imposed on violent offenders.

President Richard M. Nixon, who was the first president formally to declare the nation's War on Drugs, expanded the federal government's involvement by attempting to disrupt the importation of illicit drugs. Mr. Nixon increased the U.S. Government efforts to interdict them at the borders. The Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 consolidated prior anti-drug legislation and established various policies on illicit drugs. The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 increased bail and lengths of sentences for drug offenders, and also increased federal authority to seize assets and investigate money laundering.

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 further increased federal drug penalties, and included mandatory minimum sentences for simple possession of drugs. The overwhelming majority of America's 2 million prisoners come from low-income communities.

The National Criminal Justice Commission found that "In some inner-city areas, virtually every resident has a close relative and over 50 percent have a parent who is in prison, on probation, on parole or in hiding because there is a warrant out for their arrest." There were 1,931,859 people in America's federal, state and local prisons as of January 30, 2003. Minorities account for 79 percent of drug offenders in state prisons. America, with only 5 percent of the world's population, cages 25 percent of the world's prisoners.

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 7

the coinciding decline in school enrollment.

"10K" refers to Brown's campaign to attract 10,000 uppity, luxury loft-buying, childless newcomers to town at the expense of the city's diverse, working class families.

During the past four years under Brown's "10K" initiative, Oakland schools have seen a 12% decline in enrollment (enrollment peaked during Brown's first year in office). This steady decline has translated into some $15 million a year in lost revenue.

Former OUSD student and current OUSD teacher Wanda Price commented recently on this trend in the Oakland Tribune, "Mayor Jerry Brown's Oakland is attracting business and sending families fleeing."

Demographic projections confirm that enrollment will continue shrinking in the future, and declining enrollment guarantees declining revenues since funding from the state is based not only on enrollment, but attendance as well.

"This is just the beginning," Ward ominously threatened on Christmas eve.

While the school board seems to oppose Ward's school closure campaign, they are ultimately powerless under the state takeover, with all final decisions being made by Ward.

In response to Ward's decision to close schools, School Board Vice President Greg Hodge lamented, "I'm really getting tired of decisions being made (without) any kind of plan. When decisions get made by folks in Sacramento or their designers, it's not necessarily good for Oakland."

Two local officials did their part to help the state steal control away from the local community.

Shortly after the takeover, the Tribune reported that cell phone records had confirmed that both Jerry Brown and State Senator Don Perata conspired to facilitate the takeover.

Further, although former Board President Dennis Chaconas (who was fired by State Schools Superintendent Jack O'Connell in order to insert Ward as schools chief) had already made desperate salary cuts in an attempt to avoid the state takeover last spring, Randy Ward's OUSD will be spending $10 million more than the district did last year, and $10 million more than they are required to by state law.

At a press conference, Ward said that the school closures would save the district $400,000-$500,000 per school. That's about a $5 million savings if Ward gets his wish of closing ten schools, but yet he already has the money to overspend by $10 million? This while the staff are stuck with paycuts they only agreed to because they thought the district was broke.

However, according to a recently published report in the Tribune, the state's Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) lied about the district's finances last year, leading many to believe that Ward and FCMAT are setting themselves up to take credit for "saving" a school district which may not have needed it.

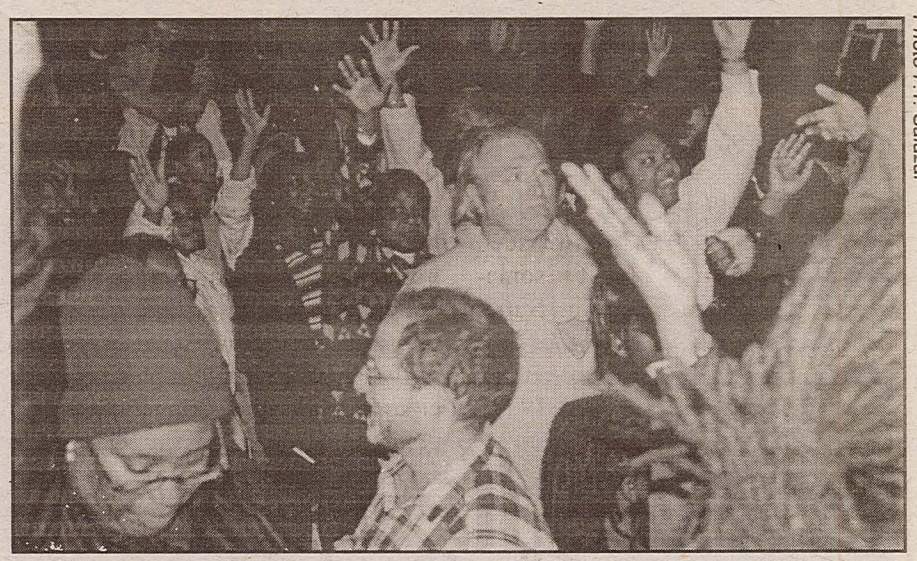


Photo F.T. Salazar

At Oakland Unified School District headquarters, Oaklanders vow to struggle to save their children's schools in January.

Throughout the period leading up to the state takeover, FCMAT officials insisted that the OUSD debt was $82 million, even though the true debt turned out to be only $57 million.

To make matters worse, the Tribune discovered that FCMAT also conveniently failed to account for $17.9 million in unspent funds from last year, so the debt could have been as low as $39.1 million. That's a far cry from the $100 million debt that now stands in the way of Oakland families and local control of their school district.

"There's obviously an effort here to exaggerate the district's problems," new School Board President Dan Siegel pointed out. "If they were to acknowledge the budget is balanced, maybe they wouldn't have had to come in the first place."

Siegel believes that school closures shouldn't be necessary since many of Oakland's schools are overcrowded, and students from these schools could attend the underenrolled schools.

Unfortunately, Ward and his handlers in Sacramento have other plans for those properties...and those children.

Robert T. Gordon
Oakland

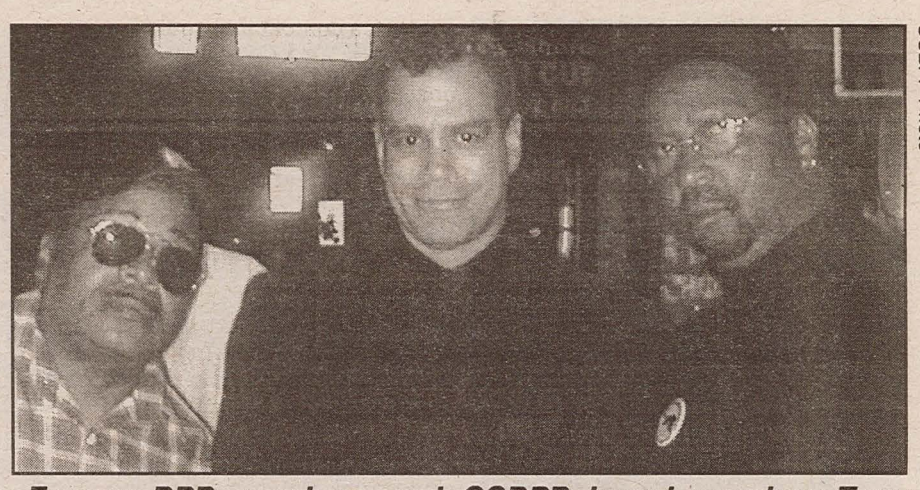
Government Repression

continued from page 13

time, their lives to advancing the struggle of low-income workers by reaching out to those more fortunate in their circumstances is urgently needed. Help us build it!

Dr. Huey P. Newton called for the Practice of Revolutionary Intercommunalism

We have to build the programs and take our communities back. If we are going to reverse these attacks on our communities, our persons, our freedoms and our livelihoods, we must organize TODAY. The majority of the working middle class and small businesses, essentially in the same boat, have been reduced in political effectiveness as a community force. The other side is not waiting. They are building the apparatus of reactionary intercommunalism every day. We must build our own apparatus of revolutionary intercommunalism. CCBPP has training programs for full-time and part-time volunteer organizers. We are calling on the next group of leaders of our people to step forward and pick up the struggle. Anyone interested in a training program with CCBPP can call 510-652-7170 to make an appointment for an interview.



CCBPP Photo

Former BPP members and CCBPP board members, Terry Cotton (left), and Bobby Coleman (right) greet Dr. Geoffrey H. Watson (center) at the 37th Anniversary of BPP.

BPP's 37th

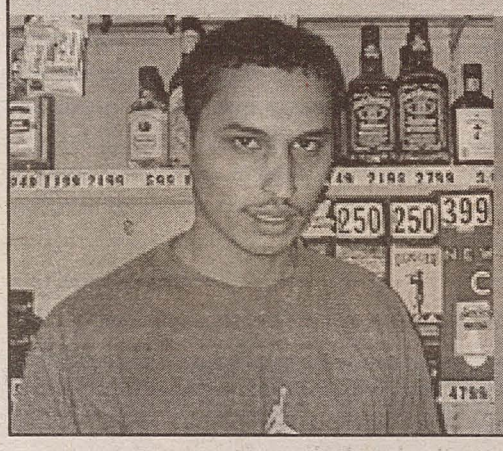
Continued from Page 9

legislature, accompanied by his comrades, rifles in hand and the subsequent arrest of those involved, "That was the first dynamics of the BPP that put the Party on a national scale…"

Finally, before sharing two poems with the audience, poet and disabled activist Lee Williams presented Dickson and the entire BPP Commemoration Committee with a Public Service Award from the O' town Passions. The honor was followed by the smooth and inspirational sounds of O' town Passions, bringing the audience to its feet with "Lift Every Voice and Sing," known as the Negro National anthem.

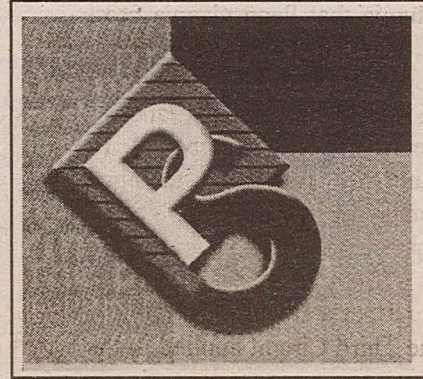
Dozens of people went to the CCBPP literature table and signed up to volunteer for the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign and for production and distribution of *The Commemorator.*

CHOICE LIQUORS
IMPORTED & MICRO BEERS / FINE
CHOICE
Groceries · ATM
3820 Telegraph Avenue Oakland, California
510.655.7985
Open Every day from 11 AM to 12 Midnight



The Youth Makes the Future

Artist Project
(West Oakland Lower Bottom)
This work is shared with you by local Artist Ora Knowell, who works in many media: Ceramic sculpture, dolls, quilts, photos, woodcarving, papier mâché masks, art from recycled materials, poetry, short stories, glass painting, nail weaving of yarn on wood, loom weaving, carpentry.
Sponsored by the Fatherless Children Foundation
Together We Can Make a Difference
by joining and supporting our campaign
For more information call: 510-663-6691 & ask for Ora



The Print Shop
Dennis Jeffrey,
Owner
2628 San Pablo Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612
Ph (510) 834-7746
Fax (510) 834-8450
prntshpoak@aol.com

Expressions Art Gallery
512 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94607
510.451.6646
Rev. Alen Laird
& Lorraine Allen-Laird

Valentine Weekend
Trip to Pelican Bay State Prison
Crescent City, CA
Friday, February 13, 2004
Returning on Sunday, February 15, 2004
510.451.6646
Sponsored by Expressions Art Gallery & San Francisco Christian Center
Leaving from **Expressions Art Gallery,**
512 8th Street
(Between Washington and Clay)
$135.00 per adult- double Occupancy required. Children are free. 2 nights at the Comfort Inn
Continental Breakfast

Finish Your College Degree
CREATE A JUST, SACRED & SUSTAINABLE WORLD FOR EVERYONE

I came to New College because I knew it was a social justice school, and I have dedicated my life to social justice and human rights.
JANINE GRANTHAM, GRADUATE, MA, HUMANITIES & LEADERSHIP.
Thesis: Non-Traditional Leadership Styles of the Poor Peoples' Economic Human Rights Movement: Professional & Personal Approach
BA Completion Programs
Finish in one year attending as little as one weekend/month
Choose from: **Activism & Social Change** San Francisco Campus
Culture, Ecology & Sustainable Community Santa Rosa Campus
Interdisciplinary Studies East Bay or San Francisco Campus
...complete your degree doing socal justice or environmental projects in your community ...get academic credit for life experience
Check to see which options start in summer
MASTER'S LEVEL STUDIES IN MEDIA STUDIES, ACTIVISM & SOCIAL CHANGE
WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY, HUMANITIES & LEADERSHIP
The oldest Public Interest Law School in the Country
MULTICULTURAL, MULTILINGUAL TEACHER CREDENTIAL PROGRAM
Call: 888-437-3460 or 415-437-3460
www.newcollege.edu
Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
Financial aid is available for students who qualify.

Mumia's Appeal

Continued from page 3

ruling did deal with the issue of Judge Sabo's racism even though Sabo's statement, "I'm going to help 'em fry the nigger," was not presented to the court until August 2001, that is, three years later! The court's twisted logic held that the NEW evidence proving Sabo's racist bias amounted to a "reopening" of previous litigation. Pennsylvania Courts have previously maneuvered to dismiss Carter's accusation against Judge Sabo, knowing that it was also heard by a prominent Philadelphia judge.

When Judge Sabo's racist remark was originally litigated before Court of Common Pleas Judge Pamela Dembe, it was dismissed on the spurious grounds that "even if the statement were true, there is no proof that Judge Sabo (who had sentenced more people to execution than any sitting judge in the U.S., the vast majority Black) evidenced racist bias in his actual decisions during Mumia's trial."

A final atrocity was committed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court when one of its Justices, Ronald Castille, refused to accede to a defense motion that he recuse himself from the case. Castile was part of the original Philadelphia prosecution team in Mumia's 1982 trial. Additionally, as Philadelphia District Attorney he had ordered the production of a secret video instructing Philadelphia prosecutors as to how to remove Blacks from jury panels. Castille's name and the State of Pennsylvania seal appear prominently on the now-discredited video's introductory credits.

Few expected justice to be done by Pennsylvania's top court, especially since all of its judges are members of the Fraternal Order of Police, the only organization in the United States that is actively campaigning for Mumia's execution. Mumia's case will now be returned to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, which had placed it on hold pending the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Decision.

But today, the deliberations of the Third Circuit may take place in a new context, a context that could lead to the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal and dozens of other Pennsylvania Inmates.

U.S. Supreme Court To Review Critical Death Penalty Decision

On September 30, 2003 the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it will review the 1983 case of George Banks whose murder conviction was recently reversed by the Third Circuit when it applied the well-known 1988 Supreme Court doctrine in the case of Mills versus Maryland. The court's Mills decision struck down a Maryland statute that required jurors to be unanimous before finding any mitigating circumstance that would allow for a sentence other than the death penalty.

The Mills doctrine was applied with regard to Mumia's federal appeal when Federal District Court Judge William H. Yohn reversed Pennsylvania's order to execute him on the grounds that Judge Albert Sabo, in sentencing part of Mumia's trial, improperly instructed the jury when he told them that a unanimous decision was required to find a mitigating circumstance for a sentence of life imprisonment as opposed to the death penalty.

This was a partial victory for Mumia that Pennsylvania prosecutors, still seeking his execution, have appealed to the Third Circuit. Mumia's new legal team, today headed by Death Penalty Specialist Robert R. Bryan, is currently preparing to appeal the remainder of Judge Yohn's decision that upheld Mumia's murder conviction.

The decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, to review the Mills doctrine that the Third Circuit applied in the Banks case to reverse an execution order, is ominous. The court could interpret Mills in a number of ways that could provide a "legal" basis for Mumia's execution, thus reopening the door to the issuance of a third warrant for his murder by lethal injection.

The respected death penalty law analyst, Rick Halperin, writing in the October 1 *Legal Intelligencer*, noted that one outcome of a U.S. Supreme Court review of the Banks case and the Mills doctrine could hold that "the

Continued on page 17

Mumia Interview

Continued from page 3

paper by George Murray, (the former Minister of Education and an instructor at San Francisco State University). He set forth the real basis for the U.S. intervention and occupation in Vietnam. He explained that for all intents and purposes, the U.S. capitalists were in search of raw materials that existed in Vietnam like bauxite, which is used to make aluminum and that car companies used to make bumpers, and so on. This was a very powerful argument — particularly when you think about what is happening today in Iraq.

People of the so-called right claim that the U.S. is entering Iraq to promote democracy and get rid of a dictator. It's far more reasonable if you understand U.S. history — especially with the Vietnam situation — that the rulers are interested in oil as a natural resource; as an economic bulwark against the loss of this resource. That's more probable than the claim about democracy and the anti-dictator stance that the state has used. When you have some inkling of U.S. history, you understand that for all intents and purposes, there's never been a dictator that the Americans didn't like, especially when they are one of the many doing the U.S.' bidding.

HB: Many today advocating are criticizing George Bush and his foreign policy. Today it would seem Clinton has been able to kill more Iraqi children with his sanctions than both President Bushes have been able to do combined. Furthermore Clinton named an illegal bombing attack on Iraq in late 1998 "Operation Desert Fox" after a famous WWII Nazi general (obviously much admired by the ruling class). How do you think relations with Iraq would be different today if Gore was President instead of Bush?

MAJ: Some may disagree with me but I do believe that the difference would probably be one of degree and not of substance. As you were mentioning about the sanctions, Clinton waged a low-intensity war all throughout his term, that probably resulted in more Iraqi deaths — here we're making an assumption because we don't really know how many Iraqis have died in the recent war. For the better part of a decade (certainly during the 8 years of the Clinton administration) the U.S. and Britain — as well as most of the west when you think about it — waged a kind of sanctions war on Iraq that denied Iraqi citizens (not the Iraqi government) access to much needed medicines and other things that children, old people and women, again average citizens could not have access to. The economic impact is also almost unheard of — certainly in this part of the world — but hundreds of thousands of children have lost their lives over that period of time.

HB: So in terms of hurting the Iraqi people, the Democrats aren't much better?

MAJ: Well, that's my impression and the more I study it and look at what people have said in previous generations, I keep coming back to that conclusion. The great internationalist and Pan-Africanist W.E.B. DuBois spoke similarly about those things way back in the 1930s when he criticized the Democrats and the Republicans. He was one who, at a very early stage in U.S. history, talked about the development of a labor party or the support of a socialist party in the U.S. That was quite unpopular and he got tossed out of the NAACP because he was so radical, but he was a very insightful and honest and deeply thinking radical of his time. I'm looking at something, in fact, that he wrote in the organ of the NAACP: *The Crisis.* He wrote it in 1922 and the editorial he wrote is called "Kicking Us Out."

DuBois writes: "The Democrats won't have us and the Republicans don't want us. Is there anything to do but impotently wring our empty hands? There is, and this is our opportunity. This spells our political emancipation. We are invited not to support either of the old, discredited, and bankrupt political parties. In other words, we are being compelled to do what every honest thinking American wants to do, namely support some third party that represents character, decency and ideals."

"Just as the two old parties have combined against us to nullify our power by a gentleman's agreement of non-recognition no matter how we vote, in the same way they have agreed to nullify the vote of every forward looking, thinking, honest American. The revolt against the smug and idiotic defiance of the demand for advanced legislation and intelligence is slowly sweeping the country. May God write us down as asses if ever again we are found putting our trust in either the Republican or Democratic parties."

This is 1922. He was a very forward thinking man, but something very similar of course could be written today when you look at the dilemma that African Americans face when they're dealing with the two major political parties. They really are a corporate party with two heads, but they have the same body, interests and certainly the same bloodstream, which is corporate wealth.

HB: Looking back at the weeks and months leading up the recent invasion of Iraq when we were out in the streets trying to prevent more slaughter at the hands of "our" government, it was really intense. Why do you think we weren't able to stop the war?

MAJ: I think in a way it relates to the previous question. We don't have anything resembling a workers' party, a labor party, or a people's party. We have a corporate party as I suggested earlier. We really have a democratic system in name but not substance. Which means that you can have a president that essentially ignores not just the expressed will of millions of people in the country. I remember reading somewhere that something like 20 million people protested this war all around the world.

It's one thing to ignore the national sentiment that was very clear, but you essentially had to ignore global sentiment to promote this war. That's why he kept talking about "weapons of mass destruction" and saying the UN didn't know what it was talking about. Bush and others claimed to know

Continued on page 17

Private Gain

Continued from page 2

figure represents only $187.50 per month in prescription drug costs. This policy is particularly discriminatory toward poor Americans who may, on paper, be "eligible" for this drug plan, but do not have the money to pay these additional fees.

The Bush administration will now allow private insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies and HMO's to charge as much as they can possibly squeeze from the American people yet they claim to be doing this in response to the public outcry against the impossibly high costs for prescribed medications.

Studies of Pharmaceuticals by U.S. Representatives

In August 1999, a Minority Staff Report Committee on Government Reform and Oversight Prescription Drug Pricing, prepared for Representative Elijah E. Cummings of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 7th Congressional District of Maryland, stated that international price comparison revealed that U.S. government deregulation policies contribute to the sharp practices of the pharmaceutical industry. The study finds that the average prices that senior citizens in Representative Cumming's district must pay are 98% higher than the prices that Canadian consumers pay and 95% higher than the prices that Mexican consumers pay.

In November 1998 U.S. Congressman Bernard Sanders of Vermont had a report published which showed that his elderly non-insured constituents were being subjected to price discrimination by pharmaceutical companies, and in August 1999 US Representative Elijah Cummings of Maryland published a report saying that the same thing was happening to his elderly uninsured constituents. In the 91st General Assembly of the Missouri state legislature Resolution No. 27 was introduced, urging the U.S. Congress to impose stronger price controls on US pharmaceutical companies.

Reformers and reformists of many stripes and shades are calling for different forms of government "regulation" of the medical and pharmaceutical industries. We, however, must ask, regulation by whom? By representatives of a bourgeois government that has already demonstrated time and time again that they decide every regulatory question in favor of the enemies of the people? We at *The Commemorator* must answer that this is not a solution for the people of our oppressed poor and minority communities. The government has clearly proven this through their policies and practices toward the energy, insurance and banking industries as well as Wall Street. In every instance they have allowed predatory and criminal practices and aided and abetted rapacious exploitation of the mass of the population. It would be self-deception to think they would deal differently with the medical industry.

The Congressional Committee's report further indicates that the governments of Mexico and Canada do not allow drug manufacturers to engage in price discrimination. In other places, such as Europe, a similar situation exists. Prices in the United States are 96% higher than prices in Italy, 75% higher than prices in France, 55% higher than prices in the United Kingdom, 47% higher than prices in Sweden, 40% higher than prices in Germany and 20% higher than prices in Switzerland.

American people are paying more for prescription drugs made by U.S. pharmaceutical companies (such as Knoll, Upjohn, Astra/Merck, and Pfizer) than Mexicans, Canadians and Europeans must pay for the same product. The elderly in the United States, who make up 12% of the population, use one-third of all prescription drugs, with the average senior using 18.5 prescriptions annually.

Seniors also frequently have inadequate insurance coverage or no insurance coverage at all to pay for these drugs. Approximately 75% of Medicare beneficiaries lack dependable, private-sector prescription drug coverage, and 35% — over 13 million seniors — do not have any insurance coverage for prescription drugs. As a result, many seniors cannot afford the high costs of prescription drugs. One study estimated that more than one in eight seniors were forced to choose between buying food and paying for prescription drugs.

This spring the first effects of this bill will begin to be felt when as many as 20 different companies will begin issuing prescription drug "discount cards," designed to build a consumer base for their products but which will provide a savings of as little as 10%. This group of competing companies will be able to charge annual fees, setting their own amounts, as well as different prices for the same medications.

Patients using the program will have to carefully sort through the vast amount of pricing information provided by all of these companies, and try to decide how to avoid running the risk of being charged more money than they would with another company – a difficult and complicated task. The "discount cards" offered by competing companies will be the consumers' primary "benefit" of the new legislation until the program takes full effect in 2006.

New Healthcare Bill Deceives the Public

The new bill signed by president Bush is a mean-spirited piece of legislation that has been written strictly according to business principles, with "cost efficiency" being the number one priority. It eliminates the provision of prescription drugs to low-income people in need of medication, and sets up in its place a system modeled on those used by private insurance companies.

The new system involves the payment of premiums, deductibles and co-payments, and a confusing and deceptive schedule of coverage. "Deductible" means that the insurance provider subtracts the "deductible" from whatever the cost is, and pays that smaller amount, rather than the total cost. If the cost is less than the "deductible," the insurance provider pays nothing. Deductibles are usually around a few hundred dollars. So if your damage or expense was $175 dollars, and the deductible is $150, then the insurance company pays only $25 dollars and you pay the other $150. If the deductible is $150 and your bill is $145, the insurance company pays nothing.

This plan has a $250 deductible, not including premiums, which average $35 a month, meaning that the average person "covered" will pay $420 (12 x $35) a year in premiums. For drug costs less than $2250 in a year, the policy gives "75% coverage," that is, the person "covered" pays 25% of the total cost. So if the total cost of a particular person's drugs in a particular year were $1000, the person "covered" would pay $420 in premiums plus the $250 deductible plus 25% of $1000, that equals to another $250 – which add up to a total of $920. So the person "covered" would pay $920 (8.7% saving) for medication for which they were being charged $1000. Medicare supposedly covers $750 of the bill, but having gotten premiums of $420 and a co-payment of $250, their net cost is $180 – less than a fifth of what the person "covered" ended up paying.

The "75% coverage" only goes up to $2250. So if the cost of the drugs is $3400, the person "covered" will have only $2250 paid on their bill by Medicare and will have to make up the rest of the $1150 themselves – after having paid $1232.50 in premiums and deductibles plus the co-payment of 25%, so that they will end up having paid a total of $2362 of their $3400 bill.

The bill provides "catastrophic protection after $3600 in total out of pocket expenses" according to a propaganda sheet put out by the Office of the Majority Leader, William H. Frist, M.D. "After $3600" means that if the total drug costs are $3600 or less, but more than $2250, then the "covered" person will only get 75% of $2250 paid on their bill – after having paid the premiums and the deductible, of course. So that if the "covered" person were unfortunate enough to have expenses of exactly $3600 and no more, they would pay $420 in premiums, $250 deductible, 25% of $2250 equaling $562.50, plus the $1450 difference between $2250 and $3600, adding up to a total of $2682.50 —

PRO ARTS
461 Ninth Street
Oakland, CA 94607
email proarts@lmi.net
www.proartsgallery.org
Office: 510.763.9425
Gallery 510.763.4361
Fax 510.763.9470

Copy Central®
"Doing it Right on time"
Greg Tomeoni
Manager
Sorry, but this offer is not valid with other discounts or promotions. Offer valid, only at this store.
Pick-Up & Delivery, call
510.527.5800
Fax: 510.526.6218
3½¢ per copy
with coupon
1553 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707

Private Gain

Continued from page 16

$317.50 less than they would have paid if they had no coverage at all. That's what the propagandists mean by "saving" — $2682 instead of $3600 for a person who may well be living on $800 a month.

Under the new Medicare plan, patients will have to pay premiums regardless of whether they purchase drugs or not. And a particularly mean-spirited feature is that they are prohibited from using any other insurance policy!

The average expenses for drugs have been estimated to be $3245 by the year 2006. This is $355 short of the amount that would make the Medicare recipient eligible for "catastrophic coverage," but will be over the $2250 limit at which "75% coverage" cuts off. In other words, the coverage schedule has been carefully calculated to see to it that the average Medicare recipient will be eligible for neither "75% coverage" nor for "catastrophic coverage."

Moreover, those on Medicaid-type program who now get pharmaceutical drugs through those programs will in the future have to make co-payments, as well. This program is not beneficial to the average working American citizen, but private pharmaceutical companies will make a killing with this new plan.

The corporate monopolistic control of the U.S. pharmaceutical industry leaves behind those who have serious health problems and do not have the money to purchase needed prescription drugs. The outcome of the new plan leaves the working class and people on fixed incomes with less than adequate care. This discrepancy will lead to higher rates of untreated disease and premature death within working class communities. The unstated result of these policies and practices will be to "cleanse" society of minorities and other low-income people. In short, if your health care exceeds the set limit for coverage, and you cannot afford to make up the difference, you suffer or die.

The Black Panther Party 10-Point Program directly addressed this issue. Point Number Six stated: "We want completely free health care for all black and oppressed people. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. *We must do massive organizing of the population to gain the power to insure that all Black and oppressed people have access to comprehensive medical care, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and are."*

Less Profitable Drugs

Continued from page 2

Until recently, only Aventis and American Home Products produced the tetanus vaccine. However, after FDA inspectors cited violations at the two American Home Products manufacturing facilities for product development, the company decided to simply close those plants rather than correcting the quality of their production process. They discontinued tetanus vaccine production altogether because they determined from the business end that it was not profitable for them to continue producing the low-profit drug. Further, the remaining manufacturer, Aventis, initiated a rationing program. Thus Aventis has a monopoly on the preventive care of tetatnus and has not produce enough vaccines to supply the needs of Americans, instead, they produce only to maximize their bottom line. Currently, the diphtheria-tetanus vaccine is being distributed through Aventis' rationing system. This is only one example of how U.S.-based, international pharmaceuticals companies already endanger the health of the U.S. population.

SANA MARKET
LIQUOR OPEN
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

"Commemorator *runs it down providing an alternative view, the big picture on how to turn the social/economic situation around, so everyone in the hood benefits."*
Alex, Call 510.774.7746.
Open 10AM to midnight, everyday

ATM/EBT/Phone card accepted
3710 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, CA 94609

Mumia's Appeal

Continued from page 15

Pennsylvania Supreme Court did not engage in any 'unreasonable' application of a federal law when it rejected the Mills claim." The substitution of a "reasonable" criteria for the present strict interpretation of Mills could give Pennsylvania prosecutors exactly what they have been looking for.

"In urging the justices to take the [Banks] case up," observes Halperin, "the [Pennsylvania] prosecutors argued that the federal courts in the [Third] Circuit have, through their Mills analysis of this once-standard instruction, effectively nullified every death penalty imposed in Pennsylvania before approximately 1989." A major modification of Mills could lead to the execution of 30 Pennsylvania inmates including Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Along with the possible reactionary outcome of the Mills review there is an important additional development on the legal front, which could have a positive impact on Mumia's struggle for freedom. A February 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Miller-El case appears to open the door wide to Mumia's new federal team to challenge the rulings of Judge Yohn when he refused to grant Mumia the "Certificates of Appealability" necessary to appeal the issues he presented to Yohn's federal district court, to the next level. The AEDPA was designed to severely restrict the right of Habeus Corpus, or federal review. Yohn granted only one such certificate to Mumia while affirming his conviction. He rejected another 27 constitutional and legal issues that Mumia originally presented.

Yohn justified this decision by citing the AEDPA requirement that federal judges grant a "presumption of correctness" to the factual findings of state court judges, including Judge Albert Sabo. The Miller-El case substantially lowers this almost insurmountable standard. Robert R. Bryan told the Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal that he plans to utilize Miller-El to reverse Yohn's exclusion of many critical constitutional and other issues that should have led to a reversal of his conviction and Mumia's freedom.

Bryan has also made it clear that however important new legal developments are, Mumia's freedom rests in the capacity of a united movement to demand that justice be done. "It is within our power to reverse the great injury that has been done to an innocent man whose case is riddled with racism," said Bryan. "We must have the courage and determination to do so."

Mumia's Interview

Continued from page 15

where all this stuff was. You had Powell in the UN with these ridiculous maps. All of a sudden the maps don't work any more.

Both parties really depend on a very thin slice of the U.S. electorate and according to the last election cycles, the vast majority of the people don't vote anyway. They don't care what the people want. They just care about their corporate sponsors. Literally, they don't give a damn about what the people want, because they just want to protect the wealthy.

HB: Do you think there is something we could be doing differently with our protest tactics so that we can stop the next war?

MAJ: I really do think that people should not have "knee-jerk stopped" when the military campaign started. For the most part that's what happened. I understand that people are conditioned into the "support the troops" stuff. But troops are not independent actors. Military people are told what to do by their leaders and their military leaders are told — theoretically at least — by the political leaders. If anything demonstrations should have intensified, not kind of decelerated with the mindset that "since it has already started, we can't do anything." I understand why people did it but I think it was the wrong thing to do.

I also think that civil disobedience has its place and people need to think about going to those lengths. I know they're afraid and don't want to go to prison or get hurt. But what's the alternative when what is being imposed on the American people is a kind of imperial occupation and a military stance that will last for generations now?

HB: Anything else that you'd like to add?

MAJ: People need to think in terms of continuing resistance because there are millions of people in this country that really share that position, but they feel isolated and afraid of expressing it.

For more information contact the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal at P.O. Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143 (215) 476-8812 or 476-5416 www.mumia.org or write Mumia:

Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM 8335
SCI Greene, 175 Progress Drive, Waynesburg, PA 15370-8090

CHEZ AQUARIUS RISING
HELEN & CHARLES

6036 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, California
Monday-Saturday
Noon-6pm
(510) 428-2116

Free Mumia • Free the Move 11 • Ya Basta! • Dyke Power! Fag Power! • Queers Bash Back • Free All Political Prisoners • Viva Zapata! • Animal Liberation

Don't Buy the HIV Lie • Homosex is Best • Pro-Choice! Pro-Queer! • AIDS is Over! • Stop Animal Testing • Sodomites Unite • Animal Liberation • Femme in the Sheets, Butch on the Streets • Don't Buy the HIV Lie • Queers Bash Back

This page is sponsored by Act UP

AIDS in Africa: New Plague or Old Illnesses of Poverty?

Racist HIV Myth Hides Ruthless U.S. Exploitation.

Unlike in the United States, AIDS in Africa is most frequently diagnosed based on four very imprecise clinical symptoms—diarrhea, fever, persistent cough, and weight loss greater than 10% over two months. *HIV antibody tests are not required to diagnose a case of African AIDS.* These four clinical symptoms are identical to the problems created by conditions of poverty that have troubled Africa and other developing areas of the world for centuries. In fact, symptoms of the so-called African AIDS epidemic are indistinguishable from the effects of malnutrition, unsanitary drinking and bathing water, and common curable conditions like malaria, cholera, tuberculosis, and parasitic infections.

Rather than solve the problems of African poverty caused by centuries of ruthless Western exploitation, the U.S. government insists on broadcasting the doomsday notion that Africa is suddenly gripped by a deadly, spreading sexual plague. According to these American health authorities, salvation from sickness can only be found in profitable pills manufactured by the white West and exported to black Africa.

America's Racist HIV Myth

The idea that AIDS originated in Africa is a popular myth without any scientific or epidemiological evidence. News reports that blame AIDS on African green monkeys are based upon elaborate speculation about species-jumping viruses rather than reliable proof. Tall tales about the spread of AIDS are promoted through the most vulgar and racist sexual stereotypes about promiscuous African people.

Still, the numbers speak for themselves. According to the 1999 *WHO Global HIV/AIDS Report,* the total number of AIDS cases in Africa virtually equals the total number of cases in America even though Africa, with its 650 million citizens, has more than two times the population of the United States. Africa is often cited as a worst case example of what could happen in America despite figures demonstrating that 99.5% of Africans do not have AIDS, and among Africans who test HIV positive, 97% do not have AIDS.

The Truth About African AIDS:

- **HIV antibody tests are not required for an AIDS diagnosis in Africa.**
- **African AIDS is diagnosed by four very imprecise clinical symptoms:**
  - **— Diarrhea**
  - **— Fever**
  - **— Persistent cough**
  - **— Weight loss greater than 10% over two months**
- **Tuberculosis, malaria, and measles far outnumber cases of AIDS in Africa.**
- **AIDS is not the leading cause of illness or death in any African nation.**

While Africa is the frequent target of damaging AIDS media reports, the total number of cases on the continent is relatively small. For example, from 1981 through 1999 cumulative AIDS cases for South Africa, the area claimed hardest hit by HIV, were just 12,825.

Exporting Extermination: AIDS Pills Kill!

It is undeniable that experimental AIDS treatments like protease inhibitors and AZT are all highly toxic, dangerous products. Strokes, muscle wasting, anemia, physical deformities, dementia, birth defects, organ failure, and death are some of the "side effects" of these poisons. Thousands of gay men in the 1980s and 1990s died from AZT poisoning. Now the U.S. State Department has elevated AIDS to the level of a threat to national security in order to gain public support for exporting AZT to pregnant African women. Outspoken leaders like South African President Thabo Mbeki—hard pressed to explain why developing nations stricken with famine and civil chaos should spend what little money they have on toxic anti-HIV drugs while millions starve—are relentlessly attacked as unfit and crazy by racist Western media outlets.

We invite you to investigate the growing international controversy over the cause and treatment of AIDS for yourself. Clip and mail the coupon below for a free copy of the groundbreaking book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* by AIDS survivor Christine Maggiore.

Fight the AID$ Fraud!

ACT UP San Francisco is the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power—a militant, direct action organization committed to ending the AIDS fraud. General body meetings are held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at 1884 Market Street and our medical marijuana dispensary is open 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Get involved. Join ACT UP! End the abuse of AIDS.

Clip and mail the coupon below to receive a free copy of the book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* or contact us for more information at www.actupsf.com!

clip here

ACT UP
SAN FRANCISCO

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to: ACT UP • 1884 Market Street • San Francisco, CA 94102 • (415) 864-6686 • www.actupsf.com • actupsf@aol.com

Free Mumia • Free the Move 11 • Ya Basta! • Dyke Power! Fag Power! • Queers Bash Back • Free All Political Prisoners • Viva Zapata! • Animal Liberation Now

CCBPP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) is committed to the goals of the Black Panther Party (BPP) as outlined in its Ten-Point Program which was written in 1966 by Party founders, Dr. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

The Ten-Point Program outlines goals and objectives toward changing conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression in all low-income and working class communities in the U.S. and elsewhere, as the basis for unity and solidarity.

Also, the CCBPP is committed to the concept of Revolutionary Intercommunalism, introduced by Dr. Newton in 1970 at Boston College. Our Revolutionary Intercommunalism holds that there are basically two sides. On one side there is reactionary intercommunalism which presently holds the world's low-income and working communities under conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression by controlling the wealth, resources and institutions in order to maximize profits for the few. Huey identified this side as the leading reactionary side (the ruling class) which consists of a minority, fewer than five percent of the world population. Under these conditions, reactionary intercommunalism, by and large, keeps the poor and working communities on a cycle of degradation, under conditions of reaction, desperation and poverty, with no end in sight. Newton understood that in order to change these conditions and advance the economic and cultural interests of these oppressed communities of the world, disciplined organizations must be built from the bottom up, enabling these low-income and working communities to fight exploitation and oppression by any means necessary (this fight needs to start in the advanced industrialized U.S. because our nation leads the world in political reaction and economic exploitation). CCBPP advances and upholds the goals which the BPP outlined in its Ten-Point Program, and those goals are about ridding black ghettos and low-income and working communities of economic exploitation and political oppression, understanding that we can reach these goals only by seizing the time at the point of practice.

Black Panther Party Ten-Point Program

WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. WE WANT FREEDOM, WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions that exist in our communities.

2. WE WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE. We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the American businessmen will not give full employment, then the technology and means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all its people and give a high standard of living.

3. WE WANT AN END TO THE ROBBERY BY THE CAPITALIST OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that the racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules were promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency that will be distributed to our many communities. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million Black people. Therefore, we feel this is a modest demand that we make.

4. WE WANT DECENT HOUSING, FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS. We believe that if the landlords will not give decent housing to our Black and oppressed communities, then housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the people on our communities, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for the people.

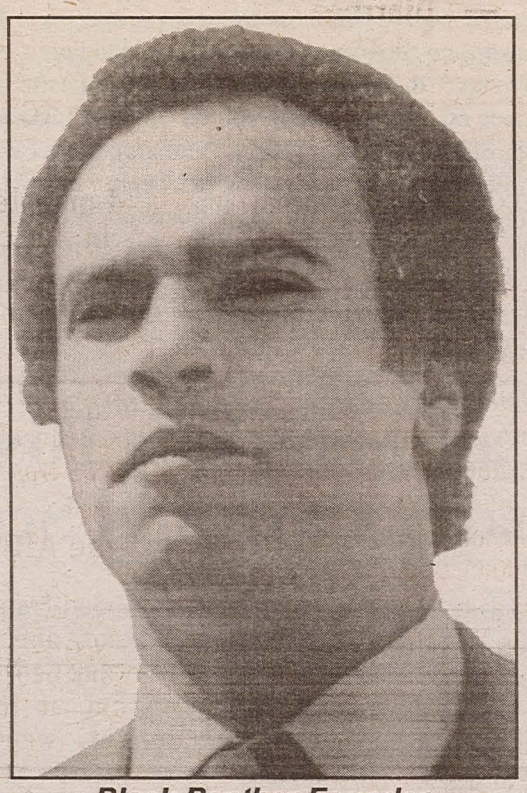
5. WE WANT EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES US OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else.

6. WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care.

7. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE, OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES. We believe that the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against Black people, other people of color, and poor people inside the United States. We believe it is our right, therefore, to defend ourselves against such armed forces and that all Black and oppressed people should be armed for self-defense of our homes and communities against these fascist police forces.

8. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL WARS OF AGGRESSION. We believe that the various conflicts which exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires of the U. S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U. S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressors.

9. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND POOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U. S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY, AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY. We believe that the many Black and poor oppressed people now held in U. S. prisons and jails have not received fair and impartial trials under a racist and fascist judicial system and should be free from incarceration. We believe in the ultimate elimination of all wretched, inhuman penal institutions, because the masses of men and women imprisoned inside the United States or by the U. S. military are the victims of oppressive conditions that are the real cause of their imprisonment. We believe that when persons brought to trial that they must be guaranteed, by the United States, juries of their peers, attorneys of their choice and freedom from imprisonment while awaiting trials.

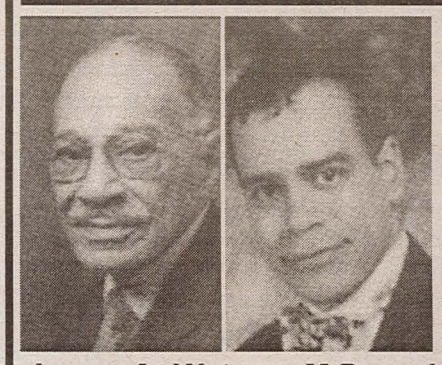


Black Panther Founder, Dr. Huey P. Newton

10. WE WANT LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE, PEACE AND PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism. It is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

The James A. Watson Wellness Center



James A. Watson, M.D. and H. Geoffrey Watson, M.D.

2940 Summit Street
Oakland, California
510.444.9460, Fax 510.444.1966

We are here to serve you.
Your health is your wealth.
When you have your health you have everything.
Accepting new patients and appointments.

Opening Day 1997 at the James A. Watson Wellness Center. Photographed (from left) are Chamber of Commerce members H. Geoffrey Watson M.D., Mayor Elihu Harris, Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Dr. James A. Watson.

Modern Medical History in the Making

The James A. Watson Wellness Center was opened in 1997 in honor of Dr. James A. Watson, co-founder of the Arlington Medical Group. The Arlington Medical Group on 57th and Market Street provided health care to the community utilizing over 60 doctors throughout its 35 year history. Patients included Huey Newton, Eldridge Cleaver (Black Panthers), Lionel Wilson (Mayor), Gene Washington (49ers), and Gene Upshaw (Raiders). Today the James A. Watson Wellness Center provides care for the community in the fashion that Dr. James A. Watson did. The center cares for patients poor to rich regardless of race, sexual preference, or social status. The facility serves us as an educational center for young doctors, nurses, medical assistants and students. The center is accepting new patients now.

Walk The Walk

For too long you've been talking the talk, and now it's time to WALK THE WALK!!

Join Dr. Geoffrey Watson from the JAWWC & The Health Beat Show, and Billy Jones from Jonesercise & Soul Beat night talk

Every Saturday morning 9 a.m.
**Stretching & Warm Up*
**Health Discussions*
**Prayer & Walking*

Located at Lake Merritt (across from our Lady of Lourdes Church & Gold's Gym between Lakeshore and Grand Ave.)

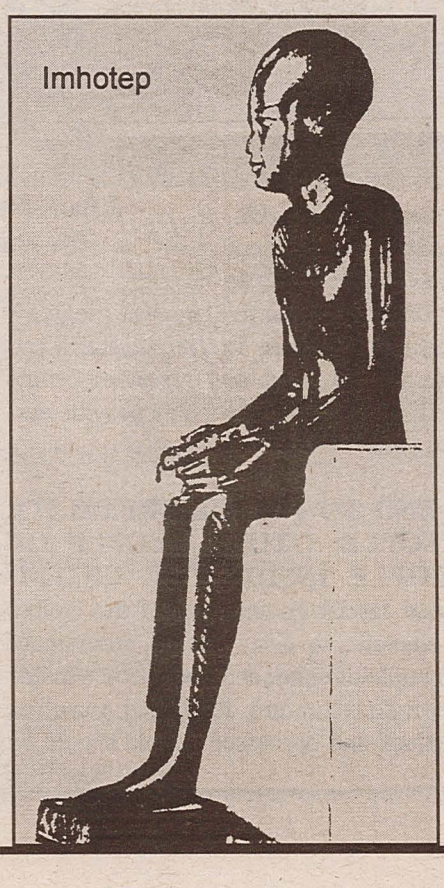
Call the **James A. Watson Wellness Center**: 510.444.9460
Watch the Health Beat Show, Channel 27, Oakland Cable
Sunday 5 - 6 pm

What to Do About the Flu

Influenza A and B is at epidemic levels. The flu is a respiratory virus which peaks between October and May of every year. The flu causes fevers, chills, sore throats, cough and may result in bronchitis; pneumonia, or even death. The flu attacks those over 65, children, asthmatics, teachers, health providers, and those who are immune suppressed. The flu vaccine will prevent about 80% of influenza A & B. There are many anti-viral flu agents available to treat and even prevent the flu. Penicillin and erythromycin are antibiotics and have no effect on the flu virus. Anti viral agents such as Amantadine, Flumadine, Relonza, and Tamiflu can both treat the flu (lower fevers, aches, cough, and sore throat) and can prevent 80% of the flu viruses. Ask your doctor for an antiviral agent and consider the flu vaccine.

African American History In Health Care and Science

One of the earliest physicians, if not the first, known to history by name was the versatile author, anatomist and African king, Athothis. This Egyptian king apparently wrote books on anatomy and practiced medicine. Unfortunately, these books have never been found and not withstanding Athothis, the African multigenius Imhotep is usually regarded as the first physician in history. He lived about 2980 BC and was an architect, scribe, priest, administrator as well as a physician. The Greeks later came to Egypt to learn about medicine from Egyptian books made from papyrus leaves. In an attempt to negate the magnificent scientific achievements of Black Africans, modern teachings in our schools attempt to falsely portray Hippocrates (400 BC) as the father of medicine. Blacks designed and built the first pyramids, wrote the first medical textbooks, and developed technical surgical techniques and bandaging (mummification).



Blacks in Science

Lewis Latimer solved the problem of transforming electric current cheaply into light through the invention of a durable filament for the electric light bulb.

- Lewis Latimer drew the design for the first telephone for Alexander Graham Bell.
- Jan Matzeliger developed the first machine to mass produce shoes.
- Garrett Mosgal invented the first automatic stoplight.
- Norbert Rilieux designed the process to turn sugar cane into white sugar.

Mind Control

"When you control the pictures and the words, then you control the way that people think. When you control the way that people think, then you may control the way that people act." These points were clearly raised in Carter G. Woodson's book, "The Miseducation of the Negro."

The media is a major influence and possesses the capability to educate, stimulate, motivate, and develop behavioral patterns. The media tells us what to eat, drink, how to talk and who to believe in. Thus the television and radio has become a subliminal form of psychological mind control. The influence provided is surpassed by no other institution.

On 11/26/03 the Soul Beat Network, Oakland's only African American owned T.V. and radio station, was removed from the Comcast owned Oakland cable system. In a dispute, Chuck Johnson, the owner, stated that Soul Beat had been categorized as a community action station by AT&T, Oakland Cable's previous owner. He stated that Soul Beat was a community service and had been given a contract for 25 years of free access to the Oakland Cable system. The present owner, Comcast, apparently does not accept this, and wants to collect back payment plus a healthy ongoing use fee. Though Mr. Johnson claims to have received no monthly billings from Comcast, he was abruptly taken off of the air. In removing the Soul Beat Network the Black T.V. voice in Oakland has been effectively silenced. Soul Beat's place on Channel 27 & 29 has been replaced by the British Broadcasting Company's programming. Educational information related to health, real estate, religion, computers, economics, politics, and exercise have been removed. The new programming seeks to remove our influence on our own community. It appears that other influences continue to want us to do things the way Europeans do.